Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-212
Friday
3 November 1989

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FBIS-NES-89-212 *3 November 1989*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Defense Ministers Conclude Riyadh Meeting *[KUNA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Chairs 4 Nov Executive Committee Session *[MENA]* 1
Salah Khalaf Says PLO Undecided on Baker Plan *[Tunis Radio]* 1
Fatah Central Committee Concludes Tunis Meetings *[Baghdad VOP]* 1
PLO's Qaddumi Cited on Israeli Election Plan *[KUNA]* 2
On Peace Talks, U.S. Stand *[Voice of the Masses]* 2
Hawatimah Warns of Peace Conference 'Delusions' *[London AL-HAWADITH 3 Nov]* 3
'Arafat, Mitterrand Advisers Meet in Paris *[Paris LE MONDE 2 Nov]* 3
PLO Denies Supporting Jordanian Candidates *[PETRA-JNA]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

'Arafat, Mubarak Speak After Meeting *[MENA]* 5
USSR's Tarasov on Contacts With PLO, Israel *[MENA]* 5
Foreign Ministry Denounces Saudi Assassination *[MENA]* 6
Mubarak Reviews Cooperation With Arabs, Libya *[Cairo Radio]* 6

Libya

Foreign Ministry Denies Role in Chadian Conflict *[JANA]* 6
Secretary Al-Talhi Denies 'Crisis' With Italy *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Nov]* 7
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Nicaraguan Official *[JANA]* 7

Sudan

SPLA Accuses Regime of Bombing Yirol *[Radio SPLA]* 7
SPLA Spokesman Discusses Bombing of Yirol *[AFP]* 8
Al-Zubayr: Ethiopian Tanks in Kurmuk Attack *[SUNA]* 9
Paper Says Mobilization at 'Maximum' *[Omdurman Radio]* 9
Al-Bashir on Rebel Talks, Egypt Ties *[Cairo AL-SHA'B 31 Oct]* 9
Council Member: Garang 'Striving for' Partition *[SUNA]* 10
Committees To Probe Migrant Transport Costs *[SUNA]* 11

IRAQ

UNIIMOG Commander Leaves Baghdad for Tehran *[INA]* 12
Ramadan Receives Senegalese Commerce Minister *[Baghdad Radio]* 12
Ramadan Receives Vietnamese Building Minister *[Voice of the Masses]* 12
Planning Minister Receives Bangladesh Minister *[INA]* 12
Sudan's Salih, Delegation Leave Baghdad *[Baghdad Radio]* 12
Joint Economic Panel Begins Meeting in Baghdad *[Baghdad Radio]* 12

ISRAEL

Baker Offers Arens Additional 'Guarantees' *[HADASHOT 3 Nov]* 13
Mubarak Remarks 'Contradict' U.S. Clarifications *[Jerusalem Radio]* 13
Levi Issues 'Unequivocal Warning' on Baker Plan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 13
Government To Form Official Stand After Debates *[Jerusalem Radio]* 13
Shamir Discusses Preserving Unity Government *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 13
Arens Interviewed Prior to Visit to Japan *[Tokyo KYODO]* 14
Japan May Urge Arens To Engage PLO in Talks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 14
France's Rocard 'Looking Forward' to Shamir Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
Soviet Official Discusses Peres' Planned Visit *[DAVAR 2 Nov]* 15
Beijing Invites 'Permanent' Academic Center *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 3 Nov]* 15
Arens Makes Bid To Win Tanker Crew's Release *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Crew To Be Held 5 More Days *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Desmond Tutu To Visit on 'Pilgrimage' 22 Dec *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Armenian Delegation Arrives for Earthquake Aid *[HA'ARETZ 3 Nov]* 15
Government Tax Revenues Decline During Oct *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 Nov]* 16
IBM Computer Said To Aid H-Bomb Program *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 31 Oct]* 16
'Extensive' Military Exercises End in Negev *[Jerusalem Radio]* 16
Mordekhay Reviews Deployment of Settlers' Unit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 16
Nationalist Groups Discovered in Nazareth Area *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Further on Israeli Arab Squads *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Families of Slain Gazans To Be Paid Damages *[HADASHOT 2 Nov]* 17
Curfew Imposed on Ramallah; Gazan Sentenced *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
IDF Reinstates Closure Order on Bayt Sahur *[THE JERUSALEM POST 2 Nov]* 17
Palestinian Casualties in Territories Reviewed *[HA'ARETZ 2 Nov]* 18
Qezi'ot Detainee Slain; Arab Beaten by HAMAS *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18

JORDAN

Army Helicopter Crashes; Eight People Killed 19
Technical Failure Blamed *[Amman Radio]* 19
Crash Victims Identified *[Amman Radio]* 19
Abu-Talib Meets Bahraini Air Force Commander *[Amman TV]* 19
'Colours' of New Parliament Hard To Predict *[JORDAN TIMES 2-3 Nov]* 19
Islamic Movement Responds to Recent Criticisms *[AL-RA'Y 3 Nov]* 20

LEBANON

'Awn Calls on Al-Husayni To Cease 'Violations' *[VOL]* 21
Al-Husayni Says Chamber Session To Be Held 4 Nov *[MENA]* 21
Further on Al-Husayni's Remarks *[MENA]* 21
Babikian Says 4 Nov Chamber Session Uncertain *[VOL]* 22
Babikian Claims 'Awn 'Ready To Accept Way Out' *[Voice of National Resistance]* 22
Hakim Says Chamber Will Hold Elections by 7 Nov *[RFL]* 22
Phalangist Party Supports 4 Nov Chamber Session *[RFL]* 22
Forces Placed on Alert for Chamber Session *[Beirut Radio]* 22
Ibrahimi Discusses Security *[Beirut Radio]* 22
Soviet Envoy Says Elections Will Be 'On Time' *[VOM]* 22
'Awn Source on 'Surprises' in Next 48 Hours *[VOM]* 23
'Awn Reportedly Refuses To Meet With Sa'adah *[RFL]* 23
Parliamentarians Cancel Plans To Meet 'Awn *[VOL]* 23
'Awn Reportedly Plans To Dissolve Parliament *[RFL]* 23
Further on 'Awn's Plans *[RFL]* 23
'Still Hope' for Last-Minute Accord With 'Awn *[Beirut Radio]* 23
Sfayr, Phalangist Deputy Leader Review Options *[RFL]* 23
Ibrahimi Says 'Our Position Has Not Changed' *[RFL]* 23
Al-Rasi Comments on Session's Postponement *[Voice of National Resistance]* 24
Ja'ja' Consulting With West Beirut Figures *[VOM]* 24
'Emergency Command' Reportedly To Try Abu-Nidal *[VOL]* 24
Syria Reportedly Releases 119 IUM Members *[VOL]* 24

SLA's Lahd Undergoes Surgery in West Germany *[Voice of National Resistance]* 24

SYRIA

Al-Asad Receives Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt *[Damascus Radio]* 25
Vice President Reviews Developments in Lebanon *[London AL-MAJALLAH 7 Nov]* 25
Al-Shar', U.S. Jewish Leader Do Not Meet *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 27
General Talas Attends Naval Tactical Exercise *[Damascus TV]* 27

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Foreign Ministry Condemns Pakistani Position *[Kabul Radio]* 28
Soviet Delegation Meets With Koshani, Mangal *[BAKHTAR]* 28
Holds Talks With Barialay, Amin *[BAKHTAR]* 28
Najibullah Receives Swedish Reporter 3 Nov *[BAKHTAR]* 28
Explosion in Rebel Arms Depot Causes Deaths *[Kabul International]* 29
Qandahar Commander Reviews Security Situation *[BAKHTAR]* 29
Military Successes in Provinces Detailed *[Kabul Radio]* 29
'Extremist Groups' Clash in Various Provinces *[BAKHTAR]* 30
Mujahidin Attack Qandahar Airport, Destroy Plane *[Islamabad Radio]* 30

India

Gandhi Rejects Defense Minister's Resignation *[AFP]* 31
HINDU Defends Authenticity of Bofors Documents *[AFP]* 31
Plan To Boost Natural Gas Production Detailed *[Delhi Radio]* 32
Editorial Discusses Pakistan's Nuclear Claims *[PATRIOT 27 Oct]* 32

Iran

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons *[Tehran Radio]* 32
Calls Al-Ta'if Meeting 'Treason' *[IRNA]* 33
Mohtashemi Sees No Differences Among Leaders *[IRNA]* 33
Foreign Ministry's Statement on Embassy Takeover *[Tehran Radio]* 33
Yazdi Issues Statement *[Tehran Radio]* 34
Cooper Not Among Released Prisoners *[TEHRAN TIMES 29 Oct]* 34
U.S. Documents To Be Displayed *[IRNA]* 34
Guardians' Council Endorses Majlis Law on U.S. *[IRNA]* 34
Velayati, USSR's Katushev Praise Relations *[IRNA]* 35
Natural Gas To Transit USSR to European Countries *[Tehran TV]* 35
Intellectuals Cited on Islamic Attire in Turkey *[Tehran International]* 35
Reaction to Choice of New Navy Commander 35
Majlis Deputies Praise Decision *[Tehran TV]* 35
Toilers Radio on 'Sudden Action' 35
Officers Criticize Promotion *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* 36
Larijani Comments on Future of Persian Gulf *[ETTELA'AT 26 Oct]* 36
* Khorasani Statement Dismissed As 'Personal View' *[KEYHAN 13 Sep]* 36
KEYHAN Interviews Air Force Chief Sattari *[28 Sep]* 37
President Meets With Former UK Prisoner Fuladi *[Tehran TV]* 39
President, Musavi-Ardabili Discuss Current Issues *[Tehran TV]* 39
West's Indifference to Muslim Hostages Assailed *[KEYHAN 25 Oct]* 39

Maldives

Victory Day Observed; Indian Assistance Lauded *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Remaining Indian Troops Leave *[Delhi Radio]* 40

Pakistan

Prime Minister Bhutto Holds News Conference *[Islamabad Radio]* 40
Commentary Hails Outcome of No-Confidence Motion *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
Troops Open Fire on Curfew Violators; 1 Killed *[AFP]* 43
PRC's Li Peng Plans Official Visit for 14 Nov *[Islamabad Radio]* 44
UN Resolution on Afghanistan Welcomed *[Islamabad Radio]* 44
Delegate Supports UN Peacekeeping Operations *[Islamabad Radio]* 44

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Defense Ministers Conclude Riyadh Meeting

LD0211094589 Kuwait KUNA in English 0809 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Riyadh, Nov 2 (KUNA)—Gulf Cooperation Council defence ministers ended their one-day meeting here last night at the secretariat general headquarters in Riyadh.

The meetings were scheduled to end today, Thursday, but after five hours of talks the defence officials decided to conclude their two rounds of discussions.

Kuwaiti Minister of Defence Shaykh Nawaf al-Ahmad hailed the results of the meetings adding that various agreements were reached that assist in fostering military cooperation between the 6 countries.

Speaking on behalf of the defence ministers Shaykh Nawaf said he was satisfied that the GCC officials were persistent to stick together to face dangers within a clear step to boost the military strategy.

In the name of the 6 defence ministers Shaykh Nawaf extended his thanks to Saudi Second Deputy Premier, Defence and Aviation Minister and Inspector General Prince Sultan bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz for hosting the 8th defence ministers meeting.

On the other hand GCC Secretary General "Abdallah Bisharah hailed the results of the defence ministers meeting saying that they were "good and fruitful."

He added that the defence officials studied recommendations submitted by GCC states' chiefs of staff and decided to present them to the forthcoming GCC summit that will be held in Muscat December.

The GCC official said that several other issues were discussed that will be presented to the technical committee for further studies.

Concerning military production in GCC states, Bisharah pointed out that this issue is vital and important but is complex being new in the region.

He added that the defense ministers decided that GCC chiefs of staff meet in the future to look into the issue from every aspect.

Shaykh Nawaf and the accompanying delegation returned home early today.

The Gulf Cooperation Council groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Chairs 4 Nov Executive Committee Session

NC0311111089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1032 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—MENA has learned that the PLO Executive Committee will hold a meeting under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo on Saturday [4 November].

Responsible Palestinian sources have stated that the 15 members of the Executive Committee will begin arriving in Cairo to attend the meeting. Bishop Iliya Khuri will not attend due to poor health.

According to the sources, the meeting will discuss the latest developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas in view of recent contacts between Egypt and several parties, particularly the United States, the talks with Soviet envoy Gennadiy Tarasov who visited Tunis and Cairo recently, and French President Mitterrand's middle east initiative.

The PLO Executive Committee will also discuss the situation in the occupied territories and Israel's inhumane practices against the Palestinian people and Muslim and Christian sanctities.

The committee will also ratify the resolutions adopted at the recent Baghdad meeting of the Palestine Central Council, an institution intermediate between the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestine National Council.

It is worth noting that this will be the first such meeting held in Cairo in several years.

Salah Khalaf Says PLO Undecided on Baker Plan

LD0311102489 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Mr Salah Khalaf, member of the Fatah Central Committee, said that the PLO's position toward U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan has not been decided yet, pending the official presentation of this plan to the organization.

He said that the PLO supports conducting a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, provided that the agenda is open and that international sides should attend as a preparation for holding the international conference.

Fatah Central Committee Concludes Tunis Meetings

JN0211205189 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1925 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Under leader President brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the Fatah Central Committee has concluded the session of meetings that began in Tunis on 29 October 1989.

The Central Committee discussed developments in the political situation in all its aspects in light of the current political moves and stands, with special emphasis on the situation in Palestine and the conditions of our heroic and steadfast people in the occupied territories, particularly after the escalation of the terrorist Zionist onslaught against our people in Bayt Sahur and the starvation campaign and military blockade against the Gaza Strip, Nabulus, and all the positions of the blessed intifadah. The Central Committee also discussed means to reply to this criminal, terrorist Zionist onslaught against our people and to bolster the march of the blessed intifadah in all fields and arenas.

The Central Committee has highly appreciated President Mitterrand's address to the European Parliament, particularly the part related to the Palestine question.

The Central Committee adopted several important political and organizational decisions. A number of organizational tasks was also assigned to some of its members. This will be completed after celebrating the 1st anniversary of the declaration of independence of the State of Palestine. The Central Committee has also decided to hold a meeting of the Fatah Revolutionary Council in mid November.

PLO's Qaddumi Cited on Israeli Election Plan

LD0311134789 Kuwait KUNA in English 1045 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Tunis, Nov 3 (KUNA)—A senior PLO diplomat Friday rejected anew the Israeli election plan for the occupied territories and reiterated his organization's call for an international conference to discuss essential questions leading to just peace in the Middle East. PLO chief diplomat Faruq Qaddumi told Arab news agencies' correspondents in Tunis that elections in the occupied territories was not a good idea. He said that the tabled [word indistinct] and five-point plans are far from the path toward just peace and from good intentions to establish such a peace. He affirmed that the PLO is the only party authorised to represent the Palestinian people, and any other talk of elections to elect new representatives was not accepted.

Qaddumi affirmed that the PLO is thus the only party responsible for forming any delegation to any negotiations and asserted that those who wish to negotiate should bring up an agenda to discuss any issue and not insist on limiting the discussion to only one item. He underlined that the five permanent Security Council members should attend such discussions and not only two countries.

Affirming that things should not be rushed since "we are negotiating an enemy (Israeli) and a friend of that enemy (U.S.)," Qaddumi said that opening a dialogue with the U.S. did not achieve any tangible results so far. He predicted that such dialogue will not even realize any results because the U.S. will never pressure Israel but rather it is adopting the Tel Aviv elections plan and trying to convince the Palestinians with the idea. He noted if Palestinian or Arab sides accepted something tabled by the American-Israeli party, the latter asks for another concession at the time when the Israeli party never offered concessions.

Asserting that the Palestinian intifida will never cease until occupation is terminated, the PLO chief diplomat said that the Palestinian upheaval has prevented Israel, along with prevailing international circumstances, from expanding or launching new offensives. He pointed out that the Soviet Union is a friendly country that consistently backs the Palestinian people's national, legitimate rights and stressed that the PLO maintains constant contacts with Moscow through joint committees and exchange of visits on all levels.

Asked on Syrian-Palestinian relations, Qaddumi said that any progress in settling the Lebanese crisis will help develop such [word indistinct] and noted that friendly and sisterly countries had exerted mediation efforts between the two that resulted in holding meetings between Palestinian President Yassir 'Arafat and senior Syrian officials.

He hailed, meanwhile, French President Francois Mitterand's proposal on holding a meeting for the European and Arab foreign ministers in Paris before end of this year to push forward Mideast peace efforts.

On Peace Talks, U.S. Stand

JN0311161289 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] PLO Politcal Department Head Faruq Qaddumi has rejected the idea of direct dialogue with the Zionist entity unless this dialogue takes place within the framework of an international peace conference on the Middle East, to be attended by the Security Council's five permanent member states.

At a news conference last night, attended by Arab news agency correspondents in Tunisia, Qaddumi reaffirmed that the PLO has the absolute right to determine the composition of any Palestinian delegation to any talks or negotiations related to the Palestine question, and that no other party has the right to ask how this delegation shall be formed. He added that the PLO is seeking in advance to secure its right to discuss all topics related to the Arab-Israeli conflict in any meetings or negotiations. The PLO also rejects the idea of discussing one or two items only at the expense of the unity of the Palestine question, which is indivisible, Qaddumi said.

The head of the political department added that we do not (?clearly) trust the United States as long as it openly declares its full support for the Zionist entity and asserts that, in its foreign policy, priority is given to the protection of the Israeli presence and security. He went on to say that the Palestinian leadership, which entertains doubts on the U.S. administration's stand, will not allow it to try find a solution to the Middle East problem alone. He pointed out that the United States can no longer exert

further pressures on European states to prevent a positive attitude to the the Middle East peace process in light of the Zionist entity's intransigence and its disregard for the will of the international community.

Qaddumi said that Jordanian-Palestinian relations impart vigor and strength to the popular intifadah in the occupied territories.

Hawatimah Warns of Peace Conference 'Delusions'

PM0311095989 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 3 Nov 89 p 31

[Unattributed report on interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in Baghdad; date not given"]

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has said that the rebuilding of Al-Faw is an expression of Iraq's desire to restore normal life and use the language of peace in Iraqi-Iranian relations.

In his interview with AL-HAWADITH during his stay in Baghdad, where he attended the Palestine Central Council meetings, Hawatimah described the rebuilding of Al-Faw as evidence of a desire for peace, since anyone who thinks of peace thinks of reconstruction, whereas anyone who thinks of war leaves towns destroyed, as they are, because of the possibility that the fire may rage again.

Hawatimah denied the possibility of the PLO's backtracking from the fixed principles endorsed by the Palestine National Council conferences. He said: I do not believe that that will happen. This is because any backtracking or retreat from these fixed principles would leave a deep wound in the Palestinian ranks at a time when the proclamation of the Palestinian state has been crowned with the recognition of 107 states throughout the world and the Palestinian peace initiative has encountered an enormous response at both the regional and the international levels, as expressed by the Madrid summit, which emphasized the development of Western Europe's position, by the Bucharest summit, which affirmed the socialist states' solidarity with the Palestinian rights, and by the Scandinavian foreign ministers' meeting, which expressed such a response. Furthermore, the peace initiative also encountered tangible development in the Japanese, Canadian, and Australian positions.

Hawatimah added: All these developments have supported the Palestinian state and the peace initiative endorsed by our national Council. This is why I do not believe that U.S. and Zionist pressures and the Israeli machinery of repression will be able to push the PLO into backtracking from these fixed principles. This is because such backtracking would have the result of forfeiting everything that the Algiers session resolutions have achieved via the proclamation of the state of Palestine and the Palestinian initiative.

Hawatimah urged people not to fall into the delusion that an international peace conference on the Palestinian issue may be held. He said: I am not with those who speculate over a date for that conference.

Hawatimah pointed out that the danger of promoting such possibilities and the effect of that on the Palestinian people is that such statements will shake the credibility of their makers among our people. They will also have negative effects among the ranks of the intifadah. So we must not foster delusions among our masses' ranks, but, rather, tell them the facts as they are. This is because our struggle is protracted; and the more the intifadah and the masses' large-scale thrust develop in the face of the occupation forces inside the intifadah's territory and the territory of 1948, the more the Arab backing for the intifadah and the desire for implementation of the Arab summit resolutions will escalate with a view to backing the Palestinian intifadah—which will speed up the convening of the international peace conference.

The DFLP secretary general urged the need to correct the course of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, so that it will not continue to be confined to discussing the U.S. ideas presented after consultation between Washington and Tel Aviv. The course must be corrected by loudly rejecting the liquidationist plans and by insisting that Washington move from dialogue with the PLO to recognizing it as the Palestinian people's representative. Such recognition would end all the maneuvers which have taken place since December, because they are all part of the search for a Palestinian alternative to the PLO. Washington is backing the Shamir election plan in order to find a Palestinian alternative from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It is also backing Rabin's proposal calling for a Palestinian negotiating delegation to be formed from inside the occupied territories, plus two or three expellees.

Hawatimah adds that the objectives of that scheme are clear, since it seeks to divide the Palestinian people in order to deal with one section at the expense of the other in a bid to confine Palestinian national rights to the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, so that it will be possible to place them under the the autonomy plan advocated by Shultz' plan, Shamir, and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals—which is totally rejected, because the United States must acknowledge the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination, to repatriation, and to establish their independent state, otherwise we have no option but to continue the intifadah until the occupiers are expelled and freedom and independence are regained.

'Arafat, Mitterrand Advisers Meet in Paris

PM0211122689 Paris LE MONDE in French 2 Nov 89 p 5

["Y.H." report: "Franco-Palestinian Meeting in Paris"]

[Text] A new Franco-Palestinian meeting—the third—was held in Paris on Tuesday 31 October in the framework of the dialogue decided on the occasion of Yasir 'Arafat's visit to France last May. This meeting—a working luncheon at the Elysee attended notably by the

diplomatic advisers to President Mitterrand and the PLO leader—took place in an "open and constructive" atmosphere, the Quai d'Orsay said.

However, this consultation took place in the absence of a representative of Egypt, whose presence had been planned more than 1 month previously, but who was unable to be present because of "timetable" problems. According to Paris, Mr 'Arafat himself had requested that the Franco-Palestinian consultations be expanded to include Egypt. Egyptian participation was desired by the three sides, Ibrahim al-Sus, PLO representative in France, stressed.

According to Israeli radio, the absence of a representative for President Husni Mubarak is the result of pressure from the United States, which is itself involved in efforts to find a Near East settlement and, more especially, in consultations with the Egyptians with a view to the formation of a Palestinian delegation to possible Palestinian-Israeli preliminary talks on elections in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza.

PLO Denies Supporting Jordanian Candidates

JN0111155389 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1436 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Amman, Nov 1 (PETRA)—In response to what is being said by some of the candidates for the Jordanian House of Representatives, that the PLO is adopting and supporting a particular candidate or a particular direction, it is in the interest of the State of Palestine Embassy in Amman to affirm the following:

First, the PLO greatly appreciates and is grateful for the Jordanian stand on both the official and popular levels, which support the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people and their valiant intifadah to get rid of the Israeli occupation and retrieve our people's right to self-determination and national sovereignty on their territory under their independent state.

Second, the PLO views the motives and developments of the elections from a very responsible perspective by considering them a Jordanian issue gaining the interest of all observers to organize the Jordanian house and reinforce it from within to confront the joint pan-Arab enemy and its expansionist greed, especially after the disengagement of legal and administrative ties from the occupied Palestinian territories, through which Jordan dealt a strong slap in the face to all the settlement schemes and conspiracies.

Third, the PLO asks that its name not be publicized in the election campaign in a way suggesting it is a supporting party for a particular candidate or a particular direction. The PLO affirms the non-interference in the internal affairs of any fraternal Arab country.

Egypt

'Arafat, Mubarak Speak After Meeting

NC0211145289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat expressed satisfaction with his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today.

In a statement to reporters following the meeting, which lasted more than 1 hour, 'Arafat said: I was pleased to meet with President Husni Mubarak today. We discussed a number of current topics at the meeting, including the situation in the occupied territories, especially the insane escalation carried out by the Israeli occupation authorities against our people in Gaza, who are facing real starvation in Bayt Sahur, Nabulus, and Hebron.

President 'Arafat said: I thanked President Husni Mubarak for Egypt's fraternal and committed stand. Egypt is playing a positive and constructive role for the sake of the Palestinian people's cause, for the sake of the Arab nation's cause, and for the sake of Jerusalem.

'Arafat added: On this occasion I wish to express thanks and support for the initiative President Mubarak has undertaken for the holding of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Egypt to prepare for a future international conference on peace in the Middle East, God willing.

'Arafat said that he will follow up this initiative with President Mubarak.

'Arafat was then asked if the recent contradictory statements by Palestinian leaders had affected Egypt's relations with the PLO, but President Mubarak said he wanted to answer this question himself. He said: Some statements were made. We are all aware of these statements, and they cannot be denied. However, we made these statements for the benefit of the Palestinian issue, so that no one would have the illusion of a split within the Palestinian community. There is no split, because, as in any country in the world, decisions in this community are made by the majority. He added: The fact that the minority has a different view and that this minority made certain statements does not mean there are differences betwen Egypt and the PLO. The Palestinian issue is Egypt's issue. Egypt has been involved in it right from the beginning and we still support this issue, which we consider one of our basic concerns.

President Mubarak added: We make these statements for the sake of the unity of the Palestinian ranks and in pursuit of a solution for the Palestinian issue, no more and no less.

At this point President 'Arafat said: The issue of democracy is one of our major concerns.

President Mubarak was then asked his opinion of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals. President Mubarak said: It is not up to Egypt to decide on Baker's proposals, but to the PLO. When we form an opinion we do this in consultation with the PLO and President 'Arafat, who dicusses it with his colleagues and then comes to us to reach an agreement so that we can explain it to the Americans. It is, therefore, up to the PLO to approve or disapprove of these proposals. The PLO will decide on this matter after consulting its ranks, and once they come up with a view or an opinion, we adopt it in our talks with the United States and Israel.

'Arafat was then asked his assessment of a call for the establishment of a popular Arab front by the Arab parties supporting the intifadah. He said: The idea came up on the sidelines of the celebrations by the Arab world and fraternal Iraq to mark the reconstruction of al-Faw, where a meeting among a number of officials representing Arab parties and the PLO took place. President 'Arafat welcomed this great Arab effort reflected in the document issued by the conferees in support of the intifadah of the Palestinian people. He noted that an expanded meeting will be held in Cairo this month on this matter and that he would welcome any pan-Arab efforts for the sake of the Palestinian and Arab issues.

USSR's Tarasov on Contacts With PLO, Israel

NC0211120989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—Gennadiy Tarasov, assistant Soviet foreign minister and the Soviet foreign minister's personal representative on Middle East affairs, has said he is confident that cooperation between the Soviet Union and the PLO will continue in the future based on the PLO's pragmatic and constructive stand on the question of a political settlement in the Middle East.

In remarks to the press before his departure from Cairo yesterday, Tarasov said that his talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and other Palestinian leaders were fruitful. He emphasized the close, good, and traditionally cooperative relations that link the Soviet Union and the PLO.

The Soviet official explained that his country maintains contacts with all the parties to the Middle East conflict, including Israel. He noted that Moscow hears Israel's viewpoint and puts forward its own proposals. He said these contacts will continue, stating that there is no truth in the claims that they aim to reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel.

Tarasov called for a dialogue among all the parties. He said that Soviet diplomacy seeks to move quickly to practical steps toward a Middle East settlement with the participation of all the parties concerned; namely, the PLO, Israel, the Arab states, and the permanent members of the UN Security Council. All these parties must participate in preparing for and convening an international conference, he declared.

Concerning Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's proposal to hold a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Moscow, Tarasov said that the PLO has welcomed this suggestion and expressed readiness to participate directly in this dialogue. Israel has not yet responded, he said, adding, however, that the Soviet Union does not intend to strike this proposal from the agenda.

Tarasov noted that the Soviet Union is in constant touch with all the parties concerned. It is also engaged in a stimulating dialogue with the United States and cooperates with the West European states on all levels, he said.

On obstacles to a political settlement in the Middle East, Tarasov said Palestinians have adopted a constructive policy based on the resolutions of the Palestine National Council In Algiers. He stressed that the responsibility for the lack of progress in a Middle East settlement does not lie with the PLO but with Israel, which is considered the main stumbling block in the way of the establishment of peace.

The Soviet official said that attempts are being made to influence the Israelis' stand and make it more flexible in order to pave the way for the peace process. He expressed the belief that although the internal political situation in Israel is very complicated, in the long run this mission can be accomplished.

In conclusion, Tarasov stressed the Soviet Union places great hope in the United Nations for the solution of international issues. He described as serious a proposal by Palestinian leader 'Arafat that the Middle East problem should be resolved on the lines of the model used for the resolution of the Namibian problem.

Foreign Ministry Denounces Saudi Assassination

NC0211162689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1543 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—Egypt today denounced the treacherous assassination yesterday of Saudi citizen Muhammad 'Ali al-Marzuqi, member of the Saudi Embassy staff in Beirut. It described the murder as "a sinful act that violates all human and religious values and international norms and laws." In a statement released by the Foreign Ministry, Egypt called on the international community to work together and adopt the necessary measures to put an end to such sinful acts. The statement expressed condolences to the Saudi Foreign Ministry staff and the family of the deceased.

Mubarak Reviews Cooperation With Arabs, Libya

NC0211200389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak today held an expanded meeting at the presidential office. The prime minister, the deputy prime ministers, and a number of ministers attended. During the meeting, President Mubarak reviewed the measures taken by the ministries and departments to implement the agreements signed during the Sanaa summit of the Arab Cooperation Council leaders. He also reviewed the results achieved by the joint higher committees established between Egypt and the fraternal Arab states.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that President Mubarak also reviewed the progress in barter deals and agreements signed to promote trade between Egypt and a number of fraternal countries. He also followed up the implementation of the cooperation agreements concluded between Egypt and Libya during the Marsa Matruh and Tobruk meetings. In this respect, the president was briefed by the minister of transport and communications on the implementation of the projects linking the two countries by land and railroad, the construction of ground networks for telecommunications, and industrial, agricultural, information, and health cooperation between the two countries.

President Mubarak gave several instructions regarding cooperation with the Arab world in general, foremost being the need to give precedence to cooperation with the fraternal Arab states; to meet the Arab countries' needs from Egyptian technicians, skilled laborers, and craftsmen; and to remove all the obstacles obstructing trade.

Libya

Foreign Ministry Denies Role in Chadian Conflict

LD0311103989 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Nov (JANA)—The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation issued the following statement: The media reports that Ndjamena issued a statement today announcing that its forces carried out an attack on hostile forces in western Sudan [word indistinct]. Libya's name was shoved into the statement in a way that causes astonishment. It alleges that Libya is linked with the battles that raged between the Ndjamena forces and those of the secessionist forces under the command of the Ndjamena commander in chief, Hassan Djamous, and Habre's adviser and minister, Idriss Deby.

The Jamahiriyah has repeatedly said, and is now stressing again, that it has no links whatsoever with the conflict raging with the Chadians in those far regions. It has nothing to do with the conflict between Habre and his companions. Moreover, there is no truth to the existence of any link between Libya and the so-called Islamic legion, which is an imaginary thing not present on earth.

Libya has heard of this corps for many years without being able to find it, and we challenge anyone to give us material proof of the existence of this corps, which is a myth.

While announcing this, the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation stresses the following:

First, its continuous attachment to the peaceful initiative announced by the brother leader of the revolution last year on the occasion of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the OAU.

Second, it adheres to the peaceful agreement signed by the two countries in Algeria on 31 August 1989 as long as the other side adheres to it and works according to it. However, Ndjamena abandoned it as soon as it was signed in Algeria and has not adhered to any of its articles.

Third, the Jamahiriyah asks the OAU chairman to form a commission to (?investigate) the locations where Ndjamena claims that the battles took place, in order to verify the falsehood of the claims of Libyan participation in the fighting. It is very clear that Ndjamena would like to use these claims as an excuse to wriggle out of the peace and the peace agreement signed between the two countries.

Fourth, the Jamahiriyah asks the OAU chairman to send an inspection commission to see the Libyan prisoners of war in Chad to verify that they are safe, because we suspect that Ndjamena might have pushed them into this fighting in order to get rid of them and at the same time to prove the claims about the presence of Libyans.

Secretary Al-Talhi Denies 'Crisis' With Italy

PM0211153989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Nov 89 p 1

[Report by Talhah Jibril: "'Azzuz al-Talhi Report: No Crisis Between Libya and Italy; Matters Will Be Resolved Through Dialogue"]

[Excerpt] Rabat, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau for External Liaison (foreign minister), has denied the existence of a crisis in Italian-Libyan relations. He said: Matters have not reached that point. Some media services talk about a deterioration in relations, but they are wrong.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Rabat, Al-Talhi said: The Italian Government asked to send a team to Tripoli to examine the body of Italian engineer Roberto Ceccato, who was killed recently.

He added that the Italian team had actually arrived in Tripoli on Saturday and that the Libyan authorities had expressed readiness to cooperate with it.

On whether the Italians have asked that the body of engineer Ceccato be handed over, he said: I have no more details than I have given.

Al-Talhi said that Libya will not turn to using pressure or blackmail against Italy regarding compensation for the colonial period. He said: We will certainly pursue the dialogue policy to resolve that issue.

Questioned about the Italian Government's refusal to discuss the subject of compensation, he replied: We will continue to raise the issue, and the Italians' refusal will not prevent us from raising it. We raised it at the nonaligned summit, where we met with support in the form of a resolution urging colonial states to pay compensation to states affected by the colonial period.

On the demonstration organized by some Italians outside the Libyan Embassy in Rome, he said: The demonstration was organized by fascist party followers and, according to our information, the Italian police dispersed the demonstrators and there was no damage. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Nicaraguan Official

LD0211175989 Tripoli JANA in English 1427 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has received Mr Henry R. Aron, leader of the Nicaraguan Revolution Council and minister of international cooperation.

Mr Aron conveyed to the leader of the revolution a letter from President of Nicaragua Ortega.

Sudan

SPLA Accuses Regime of Bombing Yirol

LD0211220589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] today said that on Tuesday, 31 October 1989, two military fighter planes of the junta bombed Yirol town at 1445 hours Sudan local time. Four civilians were killed and six others were wounded. The SPLA assures 'Umar al-Bashir that his indiscriminate and barbaric bombing of Yirol will not long go unpunished. Every warmongering madness of 'Umar al-Bashir will be quickly met by a swift, iron-fisted retaliation that will cost the regime another garrison town.

The spokesman said Al-Bashir's junta is very quickly revealing its true colors. The junta talked peace and deceived the Sudanese people with its so-called national peace conference, only as a cover for war preparations. Now 'Umar al-Bashir is telling the Sudanese people that he has no use for peace, that he has completed preparations to destroy the SPLA within two months. Of course, the SPLA is here to stay. No force can destroy the SPLA. 'Umar Al-Bashir is living in a child's dream world, in a fool's paradise.

But the important point is that 'Umar al-Bashir, by his (?outburst) that he has completed preparations to destroy the SPLA within 2 months, has merely exposed himself by his own big mouth that he was never serious about peace ever since he seized power on 30 June, that he actually took over to check the 4 July meeting and to intensify the war.

The Sudanese people do not need 'Umar al-Bashir. He is a liability, and his hands drip with innocent blood.

The spokesman further revealed that on 21 October 1989 'Umar's forces in Juba for 4 hours bombarded SPLA positions near (?Gomba) township of Juba, using mortars and heavy artillery. This was the same day that 'Umar was closing his peace conference. The citizens of Juba are our witnesses that 'Umar's forces bombarded our positions on 21 October 1989. We did not respond because we knew 'Umar wanted us to respond with a counterbombardment of Juba.

On 16 October 1989 'Umar had attacked our positions in (Surkum) in Blue Nile Province and on 31 October 1989 'Umar bombed Yirol, a civilian target. Since 1 week before the closing of his peace conference, 'Umar al-Bashir, like a rabid dog, has been looking for an excuse to start the war. The innocent fool thinks that because he has brought a few heavy weapons from here and there that he is fully ready and gives a timetable of 2 months within which to achieve military victory.

In another development, SPLA cells inside Juba town have revealed the junta's planned move from Juba against the SPLA, a very stupid and simplistic plan. Troops will be moved to Terakeka and from there to Tombe, where they will cross to Mongalla to support their main attack that will advance on the Juba-Bor road to attempt a recapture of Mongalla and Bor. We stop here, but we wish to assure 'Umar that we have the rest of the plan. This is just playing with the lives of soldiers. SPLA cells, supporters and sympathisers in the Army, police and prisons inside Juba are here ordered to be on full alert to report all plans and moves and to execute operation "White Fox," which replaced operation "Black Fox."

SPLA Spokesman Discusses Bombing of Yirol

AB0211122689 Paris AFP in English 1133 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Addis Ababa, Nov 2 (AFP)—A spokesman for the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said Thursday he could not "positively" identify two planes that bombed the south Sudan town of Yirol Tuesday as belonging to the Sudanese Air Force.

But only the government or its allies could mount this "deplorable" bombing as the town was held by the SPLA, Major Deng Alors said.

He declined to point a finger at any of Khartoum's backers.

Two unidentified planes bombed Yirol Tuesday killing five civilians and wounding six, according to aid agencies based in Nairobi.

But the bombing was not entirely "astonishing" because it came only days after the fall to the SPLA of Kurmuk near the Ethiopian border to the northeast, SPLA Captain Nhial Deng Nhial said.

Kurmuk in Blue Nile Province fell to the rebels at the weekend in the first major clash between the Sudanese Army and the rebels since the military overthrew the civilian government of Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi on June 30.

Major Deng said he was not surprised by the bombing because the government of general 'Umar Hassan al-Bashir had been reinforcing the military for a major counter-offensive against the SPLA.

"We have not said anything about it but the junta has not been respecting cease-fires it has been proclaiming since July," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

"Our positions in southern Kurdufan have been attacked regularly since then and the government is building up its forces in Juba and Wau," he added.

Major Deng said Sudanese troops were now poised to attack the towns of Torit southeast of Juba, Bor to the north and Nasir to the northeast from their strengthened positions in Juba, the southern capital.

Commenting on Gen. al-Bashir's vow to retake Kurmuk in two weeks and crush the SPLA rebellion before the end of the year, Major Deng said: "Governments in Khartoum have been proclaiming that for six years. We are still here."

He said Gen. Al-Bashir had many problems and had to make such "wild promises" to distract the people.

The SPLA has been fighting since 1983 to set up a secular state in Sudan to end Arab domination of the black, mainly Christian and animist south.

Major Deng also denied Khartoum's charges that the SPLA had shelled Kurmuk from inside Ethiopian territory before taking the town last Saturday.

"This is not true. They probably did not know where the shells were coming from," he said.

He said Kurmuk had come under a long siege and that most of the fighting had taken place between there and the town of Damazin to the north.

On Wednesday, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh summoned Sudanese Charge d'Affaires 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abdin to demand that Khartoum refrain from "spreading false allegations" about his country's complicity.

He asked the Sudanese Government to stop the practice "of pointing a finger at Ethiopia whenever the outcome of a conflict against the opposition is not in favour of the government."

Al-Zubayr: Ethiopian Tanks in Kurmuk Attack

EA0311113289 Khartoum SUNA in English 1048 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Nov (SUNA)—Command Council Deputy Chairman Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih returned home yesterday concluding a two-day tour that took him to both Saudi Arabia and Iraq. In an arrival statement, Brig al-Zubayr said he had briefed officials in the two countries on the recent developments in Sudan following the rebel aggression on Kurmuk town last week. Al-Zubayr said the attack on Kurmuk was carried out with the assistance of Ethiopian tanks. He said the attack constitutes "a big plot" against the Sudan.

Brig al-Zubayr had met in Baghdad with President Saddam Husayn of Iraq and reviewed with him bilateral relations.

Paper Says Mobilization at 'Maximum'

EA0211140589 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 1 Nov 89

[From "the Arabic Press Review"]

[Text] AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH [MODERN SUDAN] carried an editorial on the war and peace, saying that the emergency session of the national dialogue conference on the incursion against Kurmuk proves that the revolution is concerned for peace, in spite of the capability for war.

Peace is a noble objective, pursued by the revolution and the Sudanese people at large. Mobilization is at the maximum, and morale is at a high level.

This second incursion against Kurmuk is different from the first one under the former government, when the government was weak and indecisive. It has come when the revolutionary government has gone a long way towards peace, through practical measures and steps. Such steps have made Garang lose support and become desperate.

No doubt, the Armed Forces will regain all the territory, destroy the attackers, and put an end to their false dreams.

Al-Bashir on Rebel Talks, Egypt Ties

JN0211171889 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Oct 89 p 3

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council chairman, by 'Adil Husayn in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Introductory passage omitted] My first question is about the progress of contacts with the Garang-led rebels.

[Al-Bashir] In fact, the outcome of our contacts has not been positive (prior to the national dialogue conference). The delegation representing them at the Addis Ababa talks was composed of secessionist elements or those known for ideological extremism—neither of which aims for peace or stands to gain from ending the southern Sudan problem. Thus the makeup of the delegation did not indicate goodwill.

[Husayn] On the other hand, though, the rebels maintain that the revolution's abrogation of the peace agreement reached prior to the revolution was, in itself, an indication of a lack of goodwill.

[Al-Bashir] The 16 November agreement in question was not a proper peace agreement. Its terms were laid down by Garang and then accepted by the Democratic Unionist Party. The agreement that was to have been signed on 4 August was based on acceding to the debasing terms set by Garang prior to negotiations. We have now corrected the situation to make the negotiations fair and appropriate for a self-respecting country that works out its problems in accordance with clear principles meeting the interests of all parties concerned.

[Husayn] And what do you say to their contention that the coming to power of a military regime constituted a stumbling block to agreement?

[Al-Bashir] History shows that Garang has turned down serious negotiations for a resolution of the problems with former civilian governments that stayed in power for 4 years. The 1972 agreement to end unrest in southern Sudan was signed when a military regime was in power. And so, this is just a pretext to cover up their rejectionist position on peace.

[Husayn] That is fine. And do you now expect a change in attitude following the national dialogue conference?

[Husayn] That remains to be seen—we will have to wait and see. The answer to the question will be up to them. We hope things will turn out well for Sudan. What concerns me here is to explain what we will do after the conference. We have tried to arrive at a clear basis for negotiations—a formula for running the country to meet the respective interests of all forces and regions. As you must know, we have decided on a federal form of government. We have also defined the allocation of power and resources, as well as the distribution of revenues by state administrations and the central government. We have also seen to it that diversities in religion, ideology, and culture—within the framework of one Sudanese identity—are respected.

The recommendations made by the conference will translate into official policy guiding our action and that of the delegation. As representatives of the people, the negotiating team is to adopt this policy. To confirm this

representative status, the revolution's representatives will visit different regions in the country to engage the public in wide-ranging discusions in order to educate them and canvass their support. We will also send delegations to all of the countries concerned in Africa and the Arab world, as well as to Western and Eastern nations. I think Garang will find himself politically isolated. I would like to stress that our current efforts toward a democratically and fairly-governed Sudan will bear fruit, whether the negotiations with Garang succeed or fail.

[Husayn] I have heard foreign correspondents say that the Armed Forces are making active movements in the south and that there has been no letup in action on your part.

[Al-Bashir] Who said that our call for peace means to halt our support for the Armed Forces? It is natural that we should untiringly pursue peace and maintain law and order and preserve the unity of our country. All this calls for strengthening the Armed Forces. Perhaps Garang's recent attempt to seize our positions in Kurmuk bears me out. Regarding the daily clashes he talks about, these are between our forces and the aggressors in Kurmuk who have sustained heavy losses.

[Husayn] Let us now turn to the internal front. What is the truth about your affiliation with the Islamic National Front?

[Al-Bashir] To begin with, we never expected 100-percent support from all of the forces. We had known that there would be opposition. All the opponents of our reformist policies and all those who stand to gain from a continuation of the former state of affairs will seek to thwart us. Our rumored affilation with the front was not the only lie; neither will it be the last. They will continue to give currency to the lie until they stumble on another slander against us. As for the current charge that we are of the front, they seek to erode the support the revolution enjoys. They are saying, in effect, that we represent just one part of the nation rather than all the sectors.

[Husayn] But the dissolution of the professional unions and the political parties casts a pall on your stand on democracy. How would you defend your position?

[Al-Bashir] Democracy is one thing, and the political system that had prevailed is a different thing. You know, our people care deeply about freedom, and no despotic regime will take root here. We are not talking about theories. We draw on the history of this country since independence. Bismark once rightly said: While the half-wits learn from their own experience, I learn from the experience of others. Our freedom-loving people who toppled the November 'Abbud regime and the May Numayri regime deserve the right to freedom of expression and full participation in decisionmaking. This is what democracy is all about. This is what we stand for and believe in. The thing is how to achieve it without prejudicing the nation's cohesiveness, stabliity, and development. It is this we are trying to promote.

The national dialogue conference marked a first in this regard. The economic conference, God willing, will mark another such step. Furthermore, we have set about creating popular salvation committees for the improvement of services and as watchdogs over government agencies. These committees could advance to assume a political role. But it will take studies and experience. I hope our friends and the friends of freedom and democracy will set their minds at ease and allow us a while and appreciate our difficult circumstances.

[Husayn] You make much of your Arab ties, particularly Egyptian-Sudanese relations. What is new on that score?

[Al-Bashir] Let us wait until after President Mubarak and I meet in Baghdad. I should learn from the Egyptian president about his meeting with brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. In any case, our relations with Egypt are growing closer all the time, and we want them to become tighter still. As you know, the trade protocal between us is worth $325 million—up 43 percent on the previous one.

[Husayn] In the name of the Labor Party and its newspaper, I thank you.

[Al-Bashir] Thanks, and please send my greetings to our brothers in the north.

Council Member: Garang 'Striving for' Partition

EA0211082989 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council and chairman of the Council's information committee, has accused the rebel movement led by John Garang of striving for the partition of southern Sudan. In a statement carried today by AL-INQAD AL-WATANI, the Council member said that the events of Kurmuk, a border town which was recently bombarded by the rebels, have confirmed the alarm caused to Garang's movement by the voice of peace, particularly after the success of the national peace dialogue conference.

He emphasized that the movement's provocations would never divert the revolution from its serious drive for peace. He said that the revolution had made sacrifices and would continue to make sacrifices, knocking on every door that leads to peace, as the only way to resolve Sudan's problems.

Condemnation and rejection of the rebel movement's aggression on Kurmuk have continued. Dr George Kinga, minister of works and social insurance, said that Garang did not possess the practical authority enabling him to reject the atmosphere of a desire for peace which the Sudanese people had adopted. Dr Kinga added that Garang did not have popular support which could enable him to achieve (?peace), saying that his acts of aggression

[word indistinct] merely constituted vain attempts to strike at peace, and that the Army would be able [words indistinct].

Dr al-Jazuli Daf'allah, premier of the 1985 transitional government and member of the steering committee of the national peace dialogue conference, said that the rebel movement's encroachments were consistent with what the movement used to practice by way of applying critical blows whenever the Sudanese arena simmered down and prepared itself psychologically for peace. Dr al-Jazuli added that what happened in Kurmuk, whatever the extent of the disaster [words indistinct] to curb the progress of the Sudanese people [words indistinct] progress towards peace [words indistinct].

Lieutenant General, retired, Lagu, deputy chairman of the steering committee of the national peace dialogue conference, said that what happened did not accord with the spirit of the national peace dialogue. He called for restraint and patience [words indistinct] (?to avoid) irrational and reckless acts, so that Sudan could halt the bloodshed and resolve [word indistinct] peacefully. He said that neighbors had witnessed the national peace dialogue conference and it was incumbent upon them to help Sudan achieve a solution through dialogue [words indistinct].

Committees To Probe Migrant Transport Costs

EA3010172689 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Mr Peter Vrath Ador [minister of relief and migrant affairs] has spoken about [word indistinct] operations carried out during the defunct regime, involving the transportation of displaced people from Khartoum to Abyei, south of Kurdufan. He said committees have been set up to investigate how large sums of money that were said to have been spent on transportation operations were spent.

The minister revealed that the cost of transporting the Al-Kababish tribe from Khartoum to Kurdufan reached 14 million [Sudanese] pounds, while that of transporting the migrants from Khartoum to (?Aweivl) was 7 million pounds.

He added that an investigation was underway into a number of vehicles belonging to the transport unit that were still missing after being used in transportation operations.

It is worth mentioning that there are now more than 1 million migrants in the national capital and its surburbs due to the war in the (?south). Thousands of those who took refuge in the capital during the drought and (?desertification) tragedy have been transported to their areas of origin in Darfur and Kurdufan.

UNIIMOG Commander Leaves Baghdad for Tehran

JN0211131589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—Yugoslav General Slavco Jovic, commander of the UN Iraq-Iran Military Observers Group [UNIIMOG], left Baghdad for Tehran this morning.

His visit to Iraq was part of his shuttling back and forth between Baghdad and Tehran to supervise the activities of the international observers on both sides.

Ramadan Receives Senegalese Commerce Minister

JN3110185589 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and first deputy prime minister, received today Senegalese Commerce Minister Seydina Oumar Sy, who is visiting Iraq to participate in the opening of the 26th Baghdad International Fair. During the meeting, Mr Sy conveyed greetings to President leader Saddam Husayn from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. He also conveyed his high esteem for president Saddam Husayn's leadership and energy in the development of bilateral relations in various fields.

Taha Yasin Ramadan conveyed to the Senegalese minister President Saddam Husayn's greetings to Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. He reaffirmed Iraq's strong interest in their current bilateral relations and the desire to develop them.

The RCC member pointed out that the Baghdad International Fair is an international economic demonstration in Baghdad, which contributes greatly toward inaugurating new fields of cooperation between Iraqi departments and companies and fraternal and friendly institutions.

The Senegalese minister praised growth in Iraq. He said that Iraq, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, has become an international example by defendeding its dignity and sovereignty for 8 years while continuing to build despite its difficulties.

The meeting was attended by the Senegalese ambassador to Baghdad.

Ramadan Receives Vietnamese Building Minister

JN0211153289 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Ngo Xuan Loc, Vietnamese minister of building, on the occasion of his participation in the 26th Baghdad International Fair.

During the meeting, Ngo Xuan Loc conveyed the Vietnamese president's greetings to President Saddam Husayn, his pride in the advanced level of relations between Iraq and Vietnam, and his interest in promoting them.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asked the Vietnamese minister to convey President Saddam Husayn's greetings to the Vietnamese president, Iraq's satisfaction with the developed relations with Vietnam, and its serious desire to promote them in the political, economic, and trade fields.

The Vietnamese ambassador to Baghdad attended the meeting.

Planning Minister Receives Bangladesh Minister

JN0111162889 Baghdad INA in English 1600 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 1, INA—Mr Samal Majid Faraj, planning minister, today conferred here with Mr M.A. Sattar, Bangladesh minister of trade, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, the two ministers discussed means of promoting technical, trade and economic cooperation between the two countries and the deliberations of the joint Iraqi-Bangladesh Committee.

Mr Sattar and Mr Faraj chair the Iraqi and the Bangladesh sides to the committee meetngs.

Sudan's Salih, Delegation Leave Baghdad

JN0211185889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Brigadier General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today following an official 3-day visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Joint Economic Panel Begins Meeting in Baghdad

JN0211073789 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] The sixth session of the Iraqi-United Arab Emirates [UAE] joint committee for commercial and economic cooperation began at the Finance Ministry this evening. The committee is headed for the Iraqis by Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade and acting finance minister, and for the UAE by Minister of Economy and Trade Sayf al-Jarwan. The committee members are discussing aspects of cooperation in the fields of trade, agriculture, oil, communications, and education, and means of promoting this cooperation in the interests of the two fraternal countries.

During the opening session, the two ministers stressed the importance of these meetings in enhancing economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries, and the common desire for promoting this cooperation in the interest of their brotherly peoples.

Baker Offers Arens Additional 'Guarantees'

TA0311084389 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 Nov 89 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir, Daniyel Aviv, and Yo'el Esteron in Washington]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In addition to the amendments made to his plan, the U.S. secretary of state transmitted to Foreign Minister Moshe Arens a message containing guarantees which promise that the administration does not intend to surprise Israel with the composition of the Palestinian delegation to negotiations. Baker also promised that a situation will not be created in which Israel will be forced to talk to the PLO and that the United States will insist that there be no deviation from the fixed agenda for negotiations, which will concentrate on the electoral process.

The foreign minister responded with satisfaction to the additional guarantees, and he will discuss the latest U.S. initiatives this morning with Prime Minister Shamir, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin within the framework of the forum of four. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Remarks 'Contradict' U.S. Clarifications

TA0311092489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem have expressed amazement at remarks quoted yesterday and attributed to President Mubarak according to which the PLO and not Egypt will be the one to decide whether to accept the five-point plan. According to the Jerusalem sources, the remarks of the Egyptian president contradict both the clarifications submitted to Israel by the United States and the Israeli peace initiative, and therefore cannot be considered a positive contribution to the peace process.

Levi Issues 'Unequivocal Warning' on Baker Plan

TA0311064089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Report by Shula Schmerling on remarks made by Deputy Prime Minister David Levi "in Haifa last night"]

[Text] David Levi is speaking clearly, and his remarks contain an unequivocal warning to the forum of four, which is to convene this morning, and perhaps mainly to the prime minister. The constraints ministers will not accept Baker's formula, and no verbal acrobatics will help here. Baker's formula, with or without the amendments, is the opposite of our peace initiative.

[Begin Levi recording] We are, in fact, accepting something that is not the Israeli initiative, although it has a made-in-Israel stamp on it. It also includes the PLO and contains other threats as well. That is why it is not a matter of formulas or some cosmetic correction; it is absolutely different in essence. Israel should be aware of this. [end recording]

The Egyptian president is currently busy coordinating stands with the PLO in Cairo. Furthermore, he has never concealed the fact that the determining opinion is the PLO stand. We, therefore, must not hide behind various phrasings:

[Begin Levi recording] We must not go for something we oppose and later say: We are quitting because we did not realize that this is the situation. This is not a serious approach. The PLO is clearly mentioned today. It will be the one to make the appointments. The PLO is methodically studying the various points. So let us not turn a blind eye to all of this. [end recording]

Government To Form Official Stand After Debates

TA0211122889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Our political correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that Israel will form an official stand on the revised Baker document after an in-depth debate in the proper formal forums, and after a thorough perusal of all the details and nuances of the new version.

Despite the caution expressed by official elements, Jerusalem sources have said that Baker's amendments imply an attempt on the part of the U.S. Administration to meet Israel halfway, although it is too soon to tell whether the latest changes are satisfactory.

The forum of four [Shamir, Arens, Peres, and Rabin] will convene tomorrow to crystallize an agreed stance. At the same time, Jerusalem is closely following statements made in Egypt, which consults with the PLO.

The constraints ministers, who have held telephone consultations, said they see no substantive changes in the revised Baker formula, and that they will vote against it in the Inner Cabinet.

Shamir Discusses Preserving Unity Government

TA0311092189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this morning: If we do not reach an agreement in the Likud, the majority in the party will determine the way. At this moment, Shamir is on his way to the meeting of the forum of four in Tel Aviv. Before leaving Jerusalem, the prime minister said: I am going there to discuss two issues: first, how to progress with our political initiative, and second, how to maintain the unity of the government.

According to Yitzhaq Shamir, preserving the unity of the government is important today because only a government that enjoys broad support can enable Israel to endure the attacks on it on the international arena.

Prime Minister Shamir addressed a group of Jewish leaders from the United States this morning. He was asked about his relations with the three constraints ministers. He replied: This is a family affair. I am certain that we will find a solution to the dispute. He added: Basically, we in the Likud share the same opinions. The differences are merely tactical. Here Shamir provided a hint for the future. Shamir said: We may reach an agreement. If we do not, the majority in the party will determine the way. This was reported by our correspondent Yaron Deqel.

Arens Interviewed Prior to Visit to Japan

OW0211154889 Tokyo KYODO in English 1501 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Tel Aviv, Nov. 2, KYODO—Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens on Thursday praised a revised U.S. initiative to hold a meeting between Israel and the Palestinian delegation in Cairo.

Arens, in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE prior to his visit to Japan November 6-11, said "I think we are making some progress."

"We've been trying in the past few weeks to arrive at a formulation that can serve as a basis for such a meeting between the two delegations," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Wednesday gave the Israeli Government the revised five-point plan for a meeting between the Israelis and Palestinians about the Israeli peace plan and whether to hold elections in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

"When we try to establish an agreed formula for a meeting, two points are very important to Israel—to determine the composition of the Palestinian delegation and the agenda of a meeting. Israel does not want to speak to the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization)," he said. "We don't want to see a situation where we suddenly sit down with people who were appointed by the PLO. Secondly, we want to be sure that the agenda is the election procedures, and not other things that may bypass an Israeli peace initiative," Arens said.

"U.S. Secretary of State Baker accommodated some of the Israeli concerns within a framework of the five points that he suggested," Arens said.

On Friday, the four senior ministers of the Israeli coalition government, including Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens, will meet to discuss Baker's proposal.

Arens, however, did not indicate his support of the revised five points. "There are some additional questions that I am sure will be discussed between Israel and the U.S.," he said.

Arens will make a six-day official visit to Japan next week. During the visit, Arens will meet Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and others.

On the eve of the visit, Arens said, "I am duty-bound to use my visit to Japan to acquaint the Japanese Government with the present situation in the Middle East, the Israeli peace initiative and the negotiations that we had in recent weeks with the U.S. and Egypt."

Arens said he believes Japan can play a role in the Middle East peace process. "Japan, having good relations with most of the Arab countries, can be helpful in encouraging the Arab countries to respond favorably to Israel's peace initiative," he said.

Arens also said relations between the two countries are good, "but I think there is room for improvement," he said. "I see no reason why relations between Israel and Japan should not be as good as relations between Israel and the U.S."

Japan May Urge Arens To Engage PLO in Talks

TA0211204989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Japan may ask Israel to engage in a direct dialogue with the PLO. This request may be raised during Foreign Minister Moshe Arens' visit to Tokyo next month. This was announced today by an official Japanese source who wished to remain anonymous. Our government, he said, believes that it is important and urgent to arrange a direct Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, as Egyptian President Husni Mubarak noted, as a way to resolve the Middle East conflict.

The source claimed that Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama may ask Arens to accept the PLO as a partner to negotiations. It is unrealistic, he added, to think that a peaceful solution without the PLO is possible.

Let us recall that Yasir 'Arafat visited Japan in early October.

France's Rocard 'Looking Forward' to Shamir Visit

TA0211173789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] In a message to the prime minister, French Prime Minister Michel Rocard said that he is looking forward to Mr Shamir's imminent visit to France and will welcome him. He expressed interest in Israel's position on the various topical peace plans. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that a similar message was also relayed to Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. The two messages were transmitted by Aharon Nahmias, the deputy head of the Israeli delegation to the UNESCO conference.

Soviet Official Discusses Peres' Planned Visit

TA0211125489 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Nov 89 p 1

["Exclusive" report from France by Gid'on Kouts]

[Text] Paris—"The scheduled visit by Vice Premier Shim'on Peres to the Soviet Union at the beginning of December will be used to move relations between Israel and the Soviet Union beyond their present stage of bilateral talks to the stage of bilateral relations." This statement was made by Yuriy Kashlev, the Soviet deputy foreign minister, when speaking to Yitzhaq Artzi, a representative of the Independent Liberal Party at an international conference on human rights being held in Sintra, Portugal.

Beijing Invites 'Permanent' Academic Center

TA0311093889 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Nov 89 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] "Israel may send its representatives to the PRC to set up a permanent representation in Beijing which would operate within the framework of the academic center."

This was said last night in a message sent by PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen to Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

The message was transmitted during a meeting in New York between the UN ambassadors of the two countries.

The message also said that the Chinese have completed preparations to send five students to Israel for the coming academic year. The PRC asked Israel to send five of its students to the PRC in return.

Arens Makes Bid To Win Tanker Crew's Release

TA0211130089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] In a telephone conversation this morning, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens asked his Egyptian counterpart, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, to personally intervene in the Nyeta tanker affair. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the Egyptian minister promised to appeal to the appropriate Egyptian authorities in order to speed up the ship's release.

It was learned earlier that the captain of the Israeli tanker will stand trial in 5 days and will again be brought to Cairo for interrogation in 2 days.

Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal has said that the Israeli Government is demanding an explanation from Cairo of the way the Nyeta's captain has been treated in Egypt. Furthermore, a message sent by the Israeli ambassador to the Foreign Ministry in Cairo expressed Israel's displeasure.

In an interview with the Voice of Israel, Minister Shahal stated that he had authorized a bond of unlimited amount in advance to secure the release of the tanker and the team.

Crew To Be Held 5 More Days

TA0211173189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] The Egyptian ambassador says that the captain and crew of the Nyeta will not be released until due process has been exhausted in 5 days. Replying to a question by our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a, Ambassador Basyuni said that this is a legal, not political, problem and that if it turns out that the captain is innocent, he will be released at once.

Basyuni added that the threat by the Seamen's Union that it would terminate oil importation from Egypt will have no effect on the decision to release the ship's crew. He claimed that the crew is being held on board ship until the end of the interrogation in accordance with Egyptian regulations and international law.

The Seamen's Union has instructed the captain of the Nyeta to object, even with force, to any attempt to take him on shore for legal procedures. Our correspondent Haviva Roger reports that he was instructed to do so in view of the bitter experience he had when he left the vessel for initial questioning.

Tomorrow the energy and infrastructure minister will suggest that the secretary of the Seamen's Union fly to Egypt and assist the crew members.

Desmond Tutu To Visit on 'Pilgrimage' 22 Dec

TA0211183889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a leading anti-apartheid activist in South Africa, will visit Israel in 2 months as the personal guest of (Samir Kafiti), the Anglican archbishop of Jerusalem. Anglican Church officials have described the visit as a pilgrimage. Dan Eshel reports:

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a Nobel laureate, will arrive in Israel on 22 December for 5 days to conduct Christmas prayers. Tutu's personal secretary told me today in a telephone conversation from Cape Town that the visit will be a pilgrimage. The Anglican archbishop of Jerusalem told me that the guest has no intention of meeting with state officials or the press. At the same time, he will deliver sermons at the Jerusalem YMCA and in the Anglican Church in Bethlehem on Christmas. [passage omitted]

Armenian Delegation Arrives for Earthquake Aid

TA0311094789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Nov 89 p A1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The deputy prime minister of Armenia arrived in Israel yesterday at the head of a delegation which includes the chief engineer and the official responsible for the rehabilitation of the areas damaged by the earthquake. The guests will confer with Finance Minister Shim'on Peres and his deputy, Yosi Beilin. The delegation arrived at the initiative of the international Armenian community and Archbishop Shahe Ajamian of Jerusalem who, with the support of the U.S. Administration, raised $12 million to set up prefabricated houses to rehabilitate those hit by the earthquake. The project will be carried out by an Israeli construction company which will set up factories in Armenia to produce prefabricated building materials in order to speed up the rehabilitation.

The delegation was received by Dr David Nave, head of the Treasury's international department, who briefed them on fund-raising activities and notified them of the forming of ties with the Israel Bonds Organization in the United States. Observers in Jerusalem said the aid might offset the criticism leveled against Israel for its support of the Turkish lobby in its attempt to foil the declaration of a U.S. memorial day to mark the Armenian massacre.

Government Tax Revenues Decline During Oct

TA0311093689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Nov 89 p 12

[Report by Avi Temkin]

[Excerpt] The government's tax revenue continued to fall last month, bringing the cumulative shortfall in tax collection since the beginning of the fiscal year to about NIS [new Israeli shekels] 2 billion compared with planned levels.

Figures released yesterday by the Treasury showed that tax collection totalled NIS 4.5b. last month, a drop of 6 percent compared to October 1988. But the ministry added that part of the shortcoming stemmed from the fact that the High Holidays period fell in October, whereas last year the festivals were concentrated in the month of September.

The Treasury said that revenue for the April-October period was 12 percent below its level for the same months last year. But the ministry added that in the last two months there had been some signs of improvement in collection levels. [passage omitted]

IBM Computer Said To Aid H-Bomb Program

PM0211163389 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Oct 89 pp 1-2

[Husni Khashabah and Muhammad Khalid report: "American Company Contributes to Israeli Nuclear Armament Program"]

[Excerpts] London, Washington— AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that IBM, one of the major U.S. computer companies with vast interests in the Arab world, is participating in the production of an advanced computer for Israel under the Israeli program for the manufacture of hydrogen bombs.

Reports received by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT indicate that the IBM contribution to the U.S. [as published] nuclear armament program will threaten the company's interests in the Arab world. [passage omitted]

In a telephone contact with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from the company's European headquarters, a spokesman for IBM said that the company's board had applied to the U.S. Government for permission to sell an advanced computer system to Israel.

In reply to an AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT question from London, the spokesman, Alan Gillings [name as transliterated], confirmed the truth of the AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Washington office story.

Asked to comment on reports that Israel will use the system for military purposes, and particularly in the manufacture of a hydrogen bomb, the spokesman said that it was his company's policy not to discuss details of the final uses of its products. [passage omitted]

'Extensive' Military Exercises End in Negev

TA0211164789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] A series of extensive IDF [Israel Defense Forces] exercises ended in the Negev today. It involved units from the Armored Corps, paratroopers, the Artillery Corps, the Engineering Corps, the Air Force, and the Navy. They trained in cooperation between various infantry and armored combat branches; in fighting on hilly terrain, urban areas, and in obstructed areas; and in landing from the sea. This was reported by our correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Mordekhay Reviews Deployment of Settlers' Unit

TA0211183189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Central Command, said this evening that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will decide where the settlers' reserve unit from the Binyamin District will be deployed. He claimed that the considerations in this affair will be operational. Speaking on an Arabic-language [television] interview program this evening, Gen Mordekhay emphasized that being a military group, the Binyamin District unit will operate within a general army framework, will be subordinate to the IDF's system, and will have to obey its laws and regulations. He refused to comment on reaction to the matter and said that as an army man he will make recommendations on the deployment of forces only according to a professional and operational basis.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in that program, the general reported on the capture of the three

squads of masked individuals which operated in Jericho, Nabulus, and Qalqilyah, and whose members brutally murdered five local residents. He said that the correct deployment and activation of the units in the area stemmed the operations of masked persons in Judaea and Samaria.

Nationalist Groups Discovered in Nazareth Area

TA0211164389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] The police and the security services have recently uncovered three nationalistic groups consisting of Israeli Arabs. One large group was uncovered in Jatt, a village in the Triangle, and two others in Nazareth. All in all, there are 27 detainees, some of them young men, the others minors. They are suspected of carrying out dozens of attacks and of disrupting public transportation. The are also suspected of setting fires, painting hostile graffiti, and throwing stones. Charge sheets were submitted to the Haifa District Court today against five of the 17 members of the gang from Jatt, one of whom is a minor.

Further on Israeli Arab Squads

TA0211190089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Nine of the Jatt terrorist squad members which operated against Jews and Arabs will be court-martialed. The squad, headed by an X-ray lab technician from one of Jerusalem's hospitals, carried out 30 attacks in the past 2 years, which only miraculously did not result in the loss of human life. More details from Yo'el Dar:

The squad that was uncovered in Jatt, in the Triangle, operated as an underground group for all intents and purposes. At the top of its hierarchy stood Tawfiq Watad, an X-ray lab technician who had long been employed in one of Jerusalem's hospitals. He headed a chain of smaller cells of three members each. The squad members met at night but there was no contact between the cells and no one knew about more than three of his comrades-in-arms and belief. Occasionally the commander of the squad would confer with members of other cells to entrust them with various missions, which only miraculously resulted in no loss of life.

The squad that was uncovered by the Valleys subdistrict police and other security branches was established soon after the death of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], 'Arafat's deputy, in a bid to participate in subversive activities against Israel and its citizens.

Superintendent Re'uven El'ad, the head of the Valleys subdistrict's intelligence and detective unit, told us that the recruits, who called themselves the Popular Front of Jatt, carried out a host of attacks. These attacks ranged from hurling Molotov cocktails at buses to trying to attack people they termed traitors and followers of the regime. They believed that this category included village notables and the local mukhtar. Three of these people's vehicles and another two vehicles belonging to the local council were torched in the heat of the night.

An investigation has shown that this gang had no link with terrorist organizations outside Israel. The investigation also showed that its members operated on an ideological basis and were not paid for the attacks they carried out. Now, at the close of the questioning, it was decided to court-martial nine of them, while the remaining seven will be tried in the Haifa District Court.

Families of Slain Gazans To Be Paid Damages

TA0211123589 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 2 Nov 89 p 1

[Report by Fayiz 'Abbas]

[Text] The state will pay 340,000 shekels in damages to the families of two Gaza residents who were killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops. The compensation payment was decided upon after an agreement was reached with the families' attorneys, according to which the state would not assume responsibility for their deaths.

The legal suit brought by the families of Muhammad 'Abd-al Rahman and Muhammad 'Aliyan claimed that the two men were shot by soldiers in the Gaza Strip while traveling in their car. The families asserted that the soldiers had fired in a residential area without taking reasonable precautionary measures.

Attorney Avraham Ronen, representing the state, claimed that the dead men had put themselves at risk by attempting to flee and ignoring the soldiers' orders to halt.

The District Court gave the compromise agreement the force of a ruling.

Curfew Imposed on Ramallah; Gazan Sentenced

TA0111141789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] A firebomb was hurled near the Ramallah post office this morning. There were neither casualties nor damage, but the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] imposed a curfew on the area and began searches for the perpetrators.

The Gaza military court imposed a 10-year prison term and a 5-year suspended sentence on a Dayr al-Balah resident convicted of hurling firebombs at an IDF patrol. The man was convicted after confessing to the charges. There were no casualties in the incident.

IDF Reinstates Closure Order on Bayt Sahur

TA0211111889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Nov 89 p 1

[Excerpts] Bayt Sahur—The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] again declared this town a closed military zone yesterday

and ordered journalists out, while a leaflet issued here warned the municipality against negotiating an end to the local tax revolt.

The closure order, less than 24 hours after a six-week closure was lifted, did not appear to signal a renewal of the tax raids that ended Tuesday, though phone lines disconnected during the crackdown remained cut off. Residents reported that soldiers had barricaded a southern entrance to the town with rocks.

The leaflet, signed by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising, sternly warned the municipality against negotiating with the Civil Administration in the aftermath of the tax crackdown, and asserted that tax resistance is "a unified national position, from which there is absolutely no retreat." [passage omitted]

MKs [Knesset members] Muhammad Mi'ari (Progressive List for Peace) and 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah (Arab Democratic Party) visited Bayt Sahur yesterday, and joined an impromptu press conference with Mayor Hanna al-Atrash at the municipality building. Their statements of support were applauded by local residents, who crammed into the room.

Mi'ari announced that in Israel, the National Committee of Arab Local Council Heads has decided to raise funds to assist residents whose property was confiscated by tax collectors. Al-Atrash said he would appeal for help from charitable societies.

Palestinian Casualties in Territories Reviewed

TA0211143789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Nov 89 p 2

[Report by Lili Galili and Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Thirty Palestinians were killed in the territories in October by security forces' gunfire, and one man was apparently shot dead by an Israeli civilian, according to Betzelem, the Israeli information center for human rights in the territories. Data also show that two other people were killed in the territories by collaborators, and another man was killed when he fell from a roof when chased by soldiers.

The report maintains that there has been a significant increase in the number of fatalities since September, when 23 people were killed in the territories. The number was about equal in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Five of the fatalities in October were minors, three of whom were under the age of 12, all from the Gaza Strip. The great majority of fatalities, 24, were between the ages of 17 and 24. In 13 incidents, the fatalities were reportedly masked or were "in the company of masked men."

According to Betzelem, since the start of the intifadah up to August 1989, 593 Palestinian residents of the territories were killed by security forces and Israeli civilian gunfire. Of them, 559 were killed by gunshots, including rubber and plastic bullets. The remainder were killed by other means, such as beatings and burns. During the same period, eight soldiers and 11 Israeli civilians, including three babies, were killed.

According to AP's figures, 138 Palestinians suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities have been killed since the start of the intifadah until October 1989.

From data gathered in the press offices in Gaza it seems that some 10 residents, including three children, were shot dead in the Strip in October.

The data also point to 10 fatalities of people suspected of collaborating with the authorities—three in Rafah, three in Khan Yunus, one in Bayt Hanun, one in al-Mughazi, one in the Daraj neighborhood, and one in al-Burayj.

Palestinian sources reported that 25 pregnant women who inhaled gas were hospitalized and had miscarriages.

It was also reported that in October, 1,602 people were wounded in the Gaza Strip from tear gas, live ammunition, rubber and plastic bullets, and beatings.

During the same month, there were 500 indictments, of which 225 were convicted and given sentences ranging from 8 months to 10 years.

Qezi'ot Detainee Slain; Arab Beaten by HAMAS

TA0211103189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] In the village of 'Ayn 'Arik near Ramallah, a Christian Arab was beaten this morning by members of HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that soldiers who discovered the man lying near the road drove him to a hospital. The beaten man is a former prisoner and a member of Fatah, and he had been released from jail 2 months ago. While serving his prison term, he quarreled with some HAMAS people, who threatened to take revenge after his release.

An Arab detainee was assassinated by his tent cohabitant at the Qezi'ot detention facility. The murder was discovered during the morning count. Our correspondent reports that police have launched an investigation. The motives behind the murder are still unclear.

Army Helicopter Crashes; Eight People Killed

Technical Failure Blamed

JN0211121089 Amman Domestic Service in English 1201 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] A Jordanian Army helicopter crashed this morning in the Ghawr al-Safi area, killing eight officers and soldiers who were on board.

A statement by the Armed Forces said the plane crashed due to a technical failure.

Crash Victims Identified

JN0211125689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1210 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] The Armed Forces General Command mourns the martyrdom of the following officers and personnel who died while performing their duty on board a helicopter that crashed in the Ghawr al-Safi area because of a technical failure: Staff Brigadier General Sa'ud Maghsub al-Harahishah, Staff Colonel 'Abdallah Qasim Mutayr al-Matarinah, Staff Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Ahmad 'Ali Mihmil al-'Abbadi, Staff Major Ahmad Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Shamayilah, Second Lieutenant 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid Sulayman al-'Awran, Second Lieutenant Pilot Ibrahim 'Ali Muhammad al-Mataliqah, Warrant Officer 'Abdallah Hindawi Muhammad al-Hamaydah, and Sergeant Technician Khalid Rubin 'Ali Ka'kani. From God we come and to Him we shall return.

Abu-Talib Meets Bahraini Air Force Commander

JN0111214689 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] General Abu-Talib has met the commander of the Bahraini Air Force for talks on bilateral cooperation and issues of mutual interest. The commander of the Royal Air Force attended the meeting.

'Colours' of New Parliament Hard To Predict

JN0211123789 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2-3 Nov 89 p 3

[Text] Amman—The Islamic bloc for the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections raises the banner "Islam is the solution," meaning the solution for all ills, be they national or universal. The bloc, nevertheless, concedes in its programme that ideologies for change are many, but that it only believes in Islamic methods for "changing the individual, the family and the society."

The bloc calls for a "comprehensive change in all aspects of life: political, economic, social, educational, informational, military and health." The bloc calls for the adoption of Islamic shura—consultation—as a means for public participation as opposed to Western-style democracy, a concept many Islamic scholars maintain is alien to Islam.

On the other end of the political spectrum of campaigning, leftists of all shades are calling for democracy and pluralism. The left, if one is allowed to use the expression, has also some radical solutions for some of the country's problems, notably the economic crisis, that have brought on the group the wrath of the print media.

As matters stand these days, anything is possible in Jordan except a prdiction of the colours of the new parliament. It will certainly be up to the people to decide the outcome of the elections. The "Islamists" predict they will win; they maintain that as the majority of the people are Muslims, they would opt for the "Islamic solution." The leftists, though less optimistic, hope they will win, although not spectacularly as many of them admit.

If the "Islamists" win more seats than the leftists, the leftists maintain, it would be the result of years of forced absence from the political scene in the country. They argue that while people flocked to mosques on Friday, they were unable to propagate their ideologies and thus were isolated from the people. It would be in order to note here that some of the most radical leftists are Christians running for Christian seats and depending on Muslim votes to reach parliament.

So what about the centre? Here, apart from red and green, we have all the colours: traditionalists, tribalists, liberals and pro-establishment figures. Those will certainly dominate the new parliament making any prediction still all the more difficult.

In the middle of all this, the media are making their impact on the whole process. The media have been waging a persistent campaign aimed apparently at watering down candidates' slogans and programmes. Abstaining from indepth reporting on debates, the media opted for opinion columns most of which question the sincerity and practicality of campaign programmes.

The media campaign was originally against the left which advocated slogans as extreme as cancelling the agreement with the IMF. But as "Muslim" candidates' programmes became more clear especially on social issues and with the unfolding of the Tujan al-Faysal trial, the media's focus shifted right.

So where do people stand on all of this? Satistically, 1.02 million people are registered voters for the elections, mostly "registered" by the candidates. This figure represents only 80 per cent of the eligible electorate. Only around 86 per cent of the 1.02 million have collected their cards—with the lowest turnout in the cities—and all indications point that only half of them will go to the polling stations on Nov. 8. That means only 30 per cent of the electrorate will vote. This is a very low turnout for a people that for two decades were deprived of their right to elect their own representatives.

The 30 per cent who will vote on Nov. 8 are certainly the most politically and, of course, tribally active. One analyst thinks that 15 per cent will vote in line with their

tribal affiliations while only 10 per cent will vote for political candidates. If that is true, then only 10 per cent of eligible Jordanian voters are politically active, and this percentage would be a faithful representation of a people that were for decades absent from the country's political process.

Thus, two questions remain unanswered: Why is there apathy towards the elections despite the euphoria created by 650 candidates? And what will be the outcome of the polls?

Islamic Movement Responds to Recent Criticisms

JN0311102889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
3 Nov 89 p 10

["Press statement" issued on 3 November by the information committee of the Islamic Movement Bloc candidates in the form of a full-page advertisement topped by the banner headline "Vote for the Candidates of the Islamic Movement Bloc" and the subhead "From Our Election Program" framed by the bloc's slogan "Islam is the Solution" and followed by the names and pictures of the movement's candidates]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Ye who believe! If a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth, lest you harm people unwittingly, and afterward become full of repentance for what you have done. [Koranic verses]

In the last few days preceding the ballot date of 8 November 1989 unfair campaigns have been launched in the form of mockery of religious people, false accusations against Islamists, and the spread of rumors and baseless lies.

The Islamic Movement is not troubled at all by anyone expressing his opinion of it and its views and history. But when some people exploit the umbrella of the freedom of expression to insult the Islamic Movement and Islamists, to mock the Islamists and religious people, and to provoke others against them, this cannot be considered a freedom of expression at all.

The Islamic Movement and its vanguard force, the Muslim Brotherhood group, would like to make the following clarifications to the esteemed Jordanian public opinion, to the Arab and Islamic public opinion, and the world public opinion:

First: We join the majority of our faithful people, who take pride in their Islam and care about their religion, in denouncing this onslaught of pretentious writings against the Islamists and religious people.

Second: We declare that freedom of expression should be dealt with honestly and within the framework of decency and high morality. It is unacceptable in terms of either logic or reason for writers—male or female—to exploit the right to freedom of expression to pour their outrage on the religious people and Islamists.

Third: The boldness of those bearing Islamic names against their religion has encouraged some non-Muslim writers to attack and direct false accusations against the Islamists and religious people.

Fourth: We assist our brothers whose care for Islam and zealous faith have prompted them to denounce this campaign. However, we believe that the best and most effective response is further cohesiveness by our people's masses to their great Islam, further amity by our faithful people for their great prophet, and further adherence by the faithful masses to the Islmic Movement and its vanguard force, the Islamic Brotherhood group. This is what most annoys the rancorous ones and makes them eat their hearts out.

Fifth: The issue involving a suit against the person who dared attack Islamic values has been exploited by some people as well as by the Western media, most channels of which, it is common knowledge, are controlled by world Zionism. They have spilled a huge accumulation of their black bile against Islamists by shedding crocodile tears over the freedom of expression and poured their rancor and outrage on the Muslim Brotherhood movement, although the Muslim Brotherhood learned about the case only through the newspapers.

Sixth: We believe that the response to this onslaught should not be through filing suits, which are maliciously exploited against the Islamists. The response must be continued effort and activity to rally our faithful masses—men and women—around their great Islam, around the leadership of their honorable prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, and around their Islamic Movement and its vanguard force, the Muslim Brotherhood group.

Seventh: On this occasion we would like to indicate that this onslaught did not come from a vacuum. It is an onslaught concocted in the dark dens of the enemies of Islam.

Eighth: Lastly, we believe that this onslaught will be in the interest of Islamists and their Islamic Movement, because this accumulated black bile spilled by the rancorous pens against the Islamists will prompt our masses to cohere within the Islamic Movement and its vanguard force, the Muslim Brotherhood group. They plot and plan, but the best of planners is God. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Information Committee of the Islamic Movement Bloc Candidates
[Dated] 4 Rabi' al-Akhirah, 1410 Hegira; 3 October 1989

'Awn Calls on Al-Husayni To Cease 'Violations'

NC0211130489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] In response to a reporter's question, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has called on Husayn al-Husayni, former speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, to cease his violations and heresies [hartaqat], and his contempt for and violation of the constitution. He said that continued abuses would necessitate the adoption of decisive measures to stop abuse of the constitution. It is apparently clear that Al-Husayni's actions, which are inspired by others, are designed to create more obstacles vis-a-vis the understanding on presidential elections than are acceptable to the Lebanese people.

General 'Awn said: It appears that the Lebanese now need someone who can safeguard the constitution against those who claim to be acting according to it while acting to wreck it with a view to entrenching the disputes and undermine the elements of genuine unity and reconciliation.

Al-Husayni Says Chamber Session To Be Held 4 Nov

NC0211170589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Beirut, 2 Nov (MENA)—Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, has emphasized that the Chamber session will be held on 4 November as scheduled to complete the implementation of the steps to solve the Lebanese crisis. He added that these steps are supported by the Arab nation in Egypt, Syria, and every other Arab country, and particularly by the Arab higher tripartite committee entrusted with resolving this crisis.

In an exclusive statement to a MENA correspondent in Beirut, Al-Husayni expressed the conviction that the new Lebanese president will be a man of conciliation, maintaining that Lebanon is currently passing through a delicate stage and, therefore, should be kept away from any shocks.

The Lebanese speaker added that Lebanon is like a sick man in an intensive care unit. He said they had managed to reach the Lebanese national accord document in al-Ta'if not only without causing "additional wounds to the body of the homeland," but also in such a way that will make it possible for the current wounds to heal. He added that the position taken by the Lebanese deputies during their meetings in al-Ta'if means that the president should be chosen by consensus if not unanimity.

Further on Al-Husayni's Remarks

NC0211194189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Beirut, 2 Nov (MENA)—Asked about security arrangements around the Mansur Palace in Beirut where the Lebanese deputies are expected to convene on 4 November, the Chamber speaker said that Arab higher committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi, in coordination with the Chamber's civilian and military personnel, made intensive contacts to plan the security arrangements necessary for ensuring successful results of the 4 November sessions.

Responding to a question about reports that the East Beirut deputies will not attend the Chamber's session on Saturday until after consultations with certain Christian leaders, foremost being General Michel 'Awn, head of the military government, Husayn al- Husayni said that he has not been informed of this step. He added that he was told that the deputies now visiting Paris have decided to dispatch deputies Dr George Sa'adah and Kazim al-Khalil to hold consultations with some East Beirut figures.

The Lebanese Chamber speaker, however, explained that it is possible to guarantee the quorum needed for the Saturday's session despite the outcome of the ongoing consultations, pointing out that the quorum will be guaranteed if 49 or more deputies attend the session.

Asked what steps he would take if the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies failed to convene, Husayn al-Husayni said: We will not allow ourselves to make assumptions that run counter to our people's will and to the confidence placed in us by the Arab nation and the entire world. He added: We managed, thanks to the Lebanese will, to overcome all obstacles facing the steps to resolve the Lebanese crisis, beginning with the resolutions of the Arab emergency summit in Casablanca and ending with the Lebanese deputies' approval of the Lebanese national accord document.

The Lebanese speaker went on to say that the upcoming step on the road to a solution after the al-Ta'if meeting is to hold parliamentary sessions to elect the Chamber speaker and members of the Chamber's office staff, to endorse the national accord document, and to elect a new president of the republic. Before holding the Casablanca summit, this is what we called the synchronization between the approval of the reforms principles and the election of a new president.

Asked if contacts are taking place with the Christian deputies currently visiting Paris, Husayn al-Husayni said: We entered the parliamentary meetings in al-Ta'if as various sects but we wound up our meetings as one sect representing the entire Lebanese people who have one heritage and one history within a Christian-Muslim coexistence which forms a world cultural humanitarian wealth.

Concluding his statements, the Lebanese speaker said: All this makes it incumbent upon us to continue our exchanges and consultations as deputies in order to perform our duty toward our homeland.

Babikian Says 4 Nov Chamber Session Uncertain

NC0211154589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] AFP has quoted Deputy Khatchik Babikian, who is now in Paris, as saying that the approximately 20 deputies currently in Paris have decided that Deputies George Sa'adah and Kazim al-Khalil should leave today for Beirut for consultations with General Michel 'Awn on the presidential elections. Babikian further added that the 4 November date for the Chamber session is no longer certain, noting that the elections session should be held no later than 7 November.

Babikian Claims 'Awn 'Ready To Accept Way Out'

NC0211161789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Deputy Khatchik Babikian has said that the deputies in the French capital have decided to dispatch Deputies George Sa'adah and Kazim al-Khalil to Beirut today to talk with General 'Awn about the presidential elections in Lebanon. Babikian, who is in France, added that the date of the 4 November Chamber session is no longer certain and said that all deputies, whatever their political affiliation and sect, must hold consultations on who the candidates will be. He noted that the elections session must be held no later than 7 November.

Babikian declared that Gen 'Awn, who has not yet accepted the elections session, is now ready to accept a way out of the impasse.

On the date of the deputies' return to Beirut, Babikian said this largely depends on the results of the talks with Gen 'Awn.

Hakim Says Chamber Will Hold Elections by 7 Nov

NC0211155089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Deputy Bakhus Hakim has said that the parliamentary sessions will not be held on Saturday [4 November] because of the time limitations which will not allow the deputies to arrive at the Mansur Palace as scheduled. Bakhus, however, emphasized after his meeting with former President Sulayman Franjiyah that the elections will be held on the date set by the Arab tripartite committee [7 November].

In another development, AFP cited Central Bank Governor Edmund Na'im as saying that he will run for the presidency. Na'im described his relations with politicians and all existing powers as acceptable. He added: In my capacity as Central Bank governor, I dealt with everyone evenhandedly and justly and the public interest was my first consideration.

Phalangist Party Supports 4 Nov Chamber Session

NC0211200189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] The Phalangist Party political bureau met at 1800 today. During the meeting, which lasted for 2 and ½ hours, the bureau discussed all ways to ensure the convening of the parliamentary session on 4 November and expressed its desire that the session take place as scheduled. The conferees also discussed the proposals made by General Michel 'Awn which are bound to help reach an agreement over the current issuess, considering that any failure would have negative results.

Forces Placed on Alert for Chamber Session

NC0211151589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] All internal security forces and personnel have been placed on a state of alert preparatory to holding the three parliamentary sessions in the Mansur Palace on Saturday. During these sessions the deputies will elect the chamber speaker and the chamber's office staff, endorse the al-Ta'if reform declaration, and elect a president of the republic.

Ibrahimi Discusses Security

NC0211172589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi met with Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi today to discuss security arrangements for the presidential elections at Mansur Palace.

Ibrahimi is scheduled to step up his contacts and consultations within the next few hours to prevent any obstacles that might delay the Chamber's sessions on Saturday. Ibrahimi affirmed that the al-Ta'if agreement serves the interests of all the Lebanese, adding that it is not in Lebanon's interest to miss this opportunity provided by the Arab higher committee.

Soviet Envoy Says Elections Will Be 'On Time'

NC0211153789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Vasiliy Kolotusha has asserted that the elections will be held on time. He described the prevailing climate in Lebanon as positive and reiterated his country's support for the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee. Kolotusha made the statement after meeting with Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, acting Foreign Ministry secretary general. Sutaytiyah also received the French, Chinese, British, and West German ambassadors to inform them of the government's stand Michel 'Awn's protest to the UN Security Council on the so-called occupations.

'Awn Source on 'Surprises' in Next 48 Hours

NC0211202089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] REUTER cites a source close to Michel 'Awn as saying that the parliamentary session will not be held and that Lebanon is in for surprises in the next 48 hours. 'Awn warned the deputies once again and said he will prevent the convening of a meeting by the Chamber of Deputies, claiming that this meeting is unconstitutional.

'Awn Reportedly Refuses To Meet With Sa'adah

NC0311064589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] It has been learned that General 'Awn informed his visitors yesterday that he refuses to meet with the two-member committee representing the deputies now in Paris and demands to meet with all the deputies. He subsequently refused to receive any communications which were taking place between the Royale Monceau Hotel in Paris and B'abda Palace.

Parliamentarians Cancel Plans To Meet 'Awn

NC0311062589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] The most significant development today is a report that the meeting which Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn was scheduled to hold in Bkirki today with Dr George Sa'adah and Kazim al-Khalil, members of the parliamentary committee, has been postponed. National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un told AFP that this meeting will not take place today because the two deputies have canceled their decision to return to Lebanon.

Sham'un explained that Deputy al-Khalil informed Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr by telephone of the cancellation yesterday afternoon. Sham'un did not provide any explanation for this decision. He affirmed that Gen 'Awn will hold a news conference this afternoon in which he will talk about the current situation. It has not been possible so far to contact Paris to learn the truth and circumstances of this decision. All that has been ascertained is that the Lebanese deputies will hold a meeting at 1000 today, Paris time, to discuss the situation.

'Awn Reportedly Plans To Dissolve Parliament

NC0311063989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] The AL-DIYAR newspaper reports that early this morning Fu'ad al-Turk, the Lebanese ambassador in Paris, on behalf of General 'Awn conveyed to Dr George Sa'adah the decision to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies. Al-Turk conveyed a warning to the deputies not to carry out any steps after that. He also informed Dr Sa'adah that Gen 'Awn's government would take every legal measure against those who violate the Constitution on all legal and material levels.

The AL-ANWAR newspaper quotes a deputy in Paris as saying that Patriarch Sfayr informed some of those who contacted him from Paris or who were contacted by Bkirki [seat of the Maronite Patriarchate] that Gen 'Awn had not been persuaded to disregard the question of dissolving the Chamber of Deputies and clearly said that he will dissolve the chamber if the Bkirki meeting does not end with an agreement acceptable to him.

Further on 'Awn's Plans

NC0311090489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] REUTER quoted a source close to General Michel 'Awn as saying that 'Awn intends to dissolve parliament, suspend the Constitution, declare a state of emergency, and expand the military government.

'Still Hope' for Last-Minute Accord With 'Awn

NC0311100289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Citing politicians, REUTER today reported that there is still hope for a last-minute settlement with 'Awn. The report also said that the Chamber of Deputies election session may be postponed until Monday or Tuesday to give more time for further contacts to break the deadlock.

Sfayr, Phalangist Deputy Leader Review Options

NC0311102689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Arab tripartite committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi arrived at the patriarchate seat in Bkirki a short while ago.

Following his meeting with Patriarch Sfayr this morning, Phalangist Party deputy leader Munir al-Haj said: We came to Bkirki to discuss with his beatitude the alternatives to the meeting which was scheduled to be held today between Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn and Deputies Dr George Sa'adah and Kazim al-Khalil. One of these alternatives, Al-Haj added, is a meeting of Christian political and spiritual leaders who also have a role—which is not confined to the deputies alone—in deciding the country's fate. [passage omitted]

Ibrahimi Says 'Our Position Has Not Changed'

NC0311112789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Patriarch Sfayr's meeting with Arab committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi ended a short while ago. On emerging from the meeting, Ibrahimi said: Our position has not changed. We came to Bkirki to discuss the situation and its developments with his beatitude. We still believe and hope that the election of a president will be an absolute good for the Lebanese people. The Arab plan offers a golden opportunity and we think that the

Lebanese people will not allow it to be missed. Ibrahimi expressed the hope that the election would take place on schedule.

Ibrahimi left Bkirki for the Beirut Greek Orthodox Bishopric to meet with Bishop Ilyas 'Awdah.

Al-Rasi Comments on Session's Postponement

NC0311113689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi, deputy prime minister and interior minister, has stated that the Chamber of Deputies elections session will be postponed until Monday or Tuesday, adding that the postponement will either be announced by Speaker Husayn al-Husayni or be postponed automatically. He said that, in the meantime, the list of presidential candidates will undergo a process of elimination to limit the list to only two or three candidates, making it easier for the deputies to elect a president.

In a press interview, Minister al-Rasi emphasized that former President Sulayman Franjiyah is still a presidential candidate provided that he will be an unopposed or consensus candidate. He indicated that Franjiyah neither imposes himself on anyone nor opposes the election of anyone.

Ja'ja' Consulting With West Beirut Figures

NC0211135189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] It was disclosed today that [Lebanese Forces Commander] Samir Ja'ja' is holding contacts with influential figures in West Beirut through certain mediators and envoys. The contacts concern the presidential elections, the identity of the future president, and the formation of a new government.

It has been reported that Karim Paqraduni will make a strong comeback and reappear alongside Ja'ja' within the Lebanese Forces.

It has also been reported that political moves are under way within the Phalangist Party to prepare for [former President] Amin al-Jumayyil's return to the eastern area. According to reports, Al-Jumayyil held a series of meetings with some deputies in Paris and tried to involve himself in their activities. The results of his meetings were not positive, however.

'Emergency Command' Reportedly To Try Abu-Nidal

NC0211160289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Two officials in Fatah—the Revolutionary Council [FRC], led by Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], have decided to set up a provisional emergency command [qiyadat tawari' mu'aqqatah] in order to correct the course of the movement. The two officials, 'Atif Abu-Bakr and 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Isa, added that most members of the FRC's Central Committee and Political Bureau are taking part in this provisional command, which, according to their statement, intends to try Abu-Nidal for his responsibility for the crimes and acts of terrorism committed.

Syria Reportedly Releases 119 IUM Members

NC0211162489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] AFP has quoted sources in the Islamic Unification Movement [IUM] as reporting that Syria recently released 119 IUM members, some of whom had been detained in Damascus. The same sources add that approximately 100 more IUM members are still under detention in Syria. IUM leader Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban escorted the released members from Damascus to Tripoli last night.

SLA's Lahd Undergoes Surgery in West Germany

NC0211160789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] According to security sources in the south, agent Antoine Lahd has been in West Germany, where he will undergo surgery, for the past 5 days. Lahd was the target of an assassination attempt at the hands of struggler Suha Bisharah.

Al-Asad Receives Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt

JN0211130989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] At 1300 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Nabih Birri, Lebanese minister of justice and hydroelectric resources and leader of the Amal Movement. The president also received Walid Junblatt, Lebanese minister of public works and tourism and leader of the Progressive Socialist Party.

Vice President Reviews Developments in Lebanon

PM0211124089 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 7 Nov 89 pp 12-15

[Report on interview with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam by Ibrahim 'Awad in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] When 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam talks about Lebanon, you get the impression that he is talking about Syria. From his eyes and facial expressions you can see how pained he is by the bloodshed in Lebanon which he has watched and followed moment by moment for 15 years.

He says it out loud: "Lebanon's security is Syria's security.... Syrian-Lebanese relations must be special."

He gives his reasons as follows: The pan-Arab and strategic links between the two countries dictate that conclusion. Whether we like it or not, whatever happens to Lebanon reflects on the Arab homeland in general and on Syria and Lebanon in particular. We are the same Arab people with the same hopes and aspirations. [passage omitted]

Let me just mention one very simple matter because it is related not only to Syria's national security but to pan-Arab security. I am talking about the possibility of a penetration of Lebanon by the Israeli enemy with an ensuing threat to Syria. That did in fact happen in Lebanon in 1982 when the Israeli enemy entered Lebanon and reached the Lebanese village of Dayr al-'Asha'ir some 25 km from Damascus. The 1982 Israeli invasion prompted Syria to send its forces to Lebanon to confront the enemy and the Syrian forces were able, in the areas of their presence, to check the Israeli invasion. They Syrian forces which were in Lebanon at the time were deployed for security, not combat, purposes. They were deployed in most parts of Lebanese territory. If the Israeli enemy managed to seize control of Lebanon it would mean a longer Syrian front with that enemy and it would mean the enemy's reaching positions that would threaten Syria's waist and geographical boundaries. That is why we cannot ignore such threats and we cannot under any circumstance omit to take whatever measures are necessary to prevent such a situation.

All this confirms the significance of mutual security between the two countries in the narrow sense as well as in the general strategic sense, particularly since there are groups which have dealt, and are still dealing, with the Israeli enemy and which, through that cooperation, have violated the national Lebanese commitment not to deal with the Israeli enemy and have also violated the obligations and the foundation of the Lebanese state, which can be summed up by saying that Lebanon must not be a threat or source of concern to Syria. So nobody can ask us to ignore this matter in any future development related to the reconstruction of Lebanon and the restoration of its national unity and constitutional institutions.

That relations between the two countries are of a special nature is quite obvious. We were, are, and will remain one and the same people. [passage omitted]

['Awad] What is your comment on what the Lebanese deputies achieved in al-Ta'if?

[Khaddam] What was achieved at the meetings of the Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if is important for ending the civil war in Lebanon, and all Lebanese should make serious and sincere efforts to implement it, because the national accord document constitutes the basis and framework for rebuilding the Lebanese state and removing the obstacles that have prevented it. On the instructions of President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria will do everything it can for the implementation of al-Ta'if agreement.

President Hafiz al-Asad has emphasized throughout the Lebanese crisis that there can be no solution except through national accord among the Lebanese. Over the years Syria has made great efforts in that direction. We hope that the national accord document will open the door wide to security, peace, and stability in Lebanon and to the restoration of Lebanon's national unity and the rebuilding of the government institutions on the basis of the accord document.

['Awad] But there are those who claim that Syria intends to annex Lebanon.

[Khaddam] Syria has no intention of annexing Lebanon in any way. Syria is an advocate of Arab unity. The Syrian state and society believe in Arab unity, but Arab unity is one thing and annexation is quite another. Unity could take place between Syria and an Arab country thousands of miles away before it takes place between Syria and Lebanon. This did indeed happen. There was unity between Syria and Egypt. [passage omitted]

['Awad] Some people are calling for the immediate withdrawal of the Syrian Army from Lebanon. What is your position on that?

[Khaddam] The people talking about the Syrian Army are trying to obscure the basic issue of reforms in Lebanon. They refuse to consider political reforms. One of them has said: Either we rule or we emigrate to the United States, Canada, and Australia. In other words, either rulers or emigrees. This reveals the kind of national links that these people have with the homeland.

Anyone who clings to the homeland only as a ruler is no different from the South African whites. That is a racist mentality that does not belong to this era. The Syrian Army entered Lebanon with specific objectives, the first being protection of Lebanon's unity, because Lebanon's unity constitutes a red line which must not be violated. Another objective was to help restore national accord in the fraternal country, and a third objective was, as I have already explained, the threat to Syria's security. That entry was not Syria's wish, because Syria can find ways of enabling the Lebanese to maintain their unity, without having a single soldier in Lebanon. Everyone must understand this. We entered Lebanon in accordance with an almost unanimous Lebanese wish. It was the official wish of the Lebanese Government at the time. [passage omitted]

So we entered at the request of the government and in response to appeals by the Lebanese people, especially the group in the East. However, it seemed that after we moved in and stopped the fighting certain people wanted to use Syria to tip the internal balance in their favor and eliminate the Palestinian presence, and also to strike at the Lebanese nationalist forces. When we rejected that and emphasized that Syria could not accept the elimination of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and the weakening or shackling of the Palestinian resistance, the campaigns against Syria began, at a time when we were working for Lebanese national accord and settlement of the Lebanese-Palestinian problem and the Lebanese-Lebanese problem. It was then that the hands extended to Israel began to increase their activities and came out in the open, hence the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1973 and 1982.

Syria did not send its forces to Lebanon to stay there forever. These forces have other tasks, but they will stay until national accord is achieved in accordance with the document proposed by the Arab committee—in other words, until implementation of national accord and constitutional reforms, as well as Syria's security, are guaranteed. Some may say: What has the question of accord got to do with you and your security? Our answer is that a national accord government would restore stablity and security in Lebanon. We insist on fulfillment of that objective.

So the matter is linked to the achievement of national accord guaranteeing Lebanon's security as well as Syria's. Syria supports the national accord document proposed by the Arab tripartite committee, including the part on the special relations between the two countries, because regulation of these relations is in Lebanon's interest, just as it is in Syria's interest, and also the part on Syrian assistance for the government of national accord.

['Awad] But certain Lebanese leaders made statements when they were in the Iranian capital recently, criticizing the al-Ta'if meeting and rejecting the provisions of the accord document announced by the Arab tripartite committee. How do you explain that, when the leaders in question—and I specifically cite Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri—are in agreement with Syria?

[Khaddam] As far as I know, the Lebanese nationalist forces support the Arab efforts for the settlement of the Lebanese crisis, but naturally, these forces have their own idea of a solution. Every organization in Lebanon has its own idea of a solution. I believe that when the Arab committee manages to establish common ground the Lebanese nationalist forces will, as far as I know, support the results. Naturally, it is the common denominators that will guarantee serious reform of the political system and equality between the Lebanese in rights and duties. We know very well that the nationalist forces want national accord and a political settlement of the Lebanese crisis. That is reassuring. We should note not only what some nationalist leaders say out of distrust of the other side and its maneuvers, but also what some people on the other side facing the nationalist forces say and do to obstruct national accord and hinder the Arab solution.

['Awad] Some groups fear the loss of the the privileges they once had and have asked for guarantees. What do you think of such fears?

[Khaddam] An analysis of all events and developments in Lebanon since independence would show objectively that any country where one group enjoys privileges above the rest of the population cannot have stability. So it is natural that the national accord process should put an end to all privileges and discrmination in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

['Awad] A number of Sunni leaders, especially Mufti of the Lebanese Republic Shaykh Hasan Khalid, were assassinated in areas of Syrian presence. Some questions have been asked about this. What is your view?

[Khaddam] Yes, assassinations have occurred in areas of Syrian presence. We believe that the enemies of national accord in Lebanon and the enemies of the peace process were behind these assassinations, manipulated by certain intelligence bodies in the eastern area. Such assassinations in areas of Syrian presence are possible. In Syria, for example, there were scores of assassination incidents in 1979 and 1980. President John Kennedy was assassinated in the United States and there was an attempt on the life of President Reagan. Criminal incidents in areas of Syrian presence are possible, just as they are in any country in the world.

['Awad] Is there any evidence for the charges you level at the organs in question?

[Khaddam] There are indications.

['Awad] Has anyone been arrested? Are there specific names?

[Khaddam] I have no information on that, because I do not follow up security cases.

['Awad] A final question: How do you explain the entry of Iranian Revolutionary Guards into Lebanon?

[Khaddam] First, there are less than 400 of them. They have been in Lebanon since 1982, when Israel invaded Lebanon. We all know that in Lebanon there are political organizations which have links with Iran and which receive aid from Iran for their operations against Israel.

['Awad] The very final question: Have you given General 'Awn any guarantees?

[Khaddam] We have not given anyone guarantees. The guarantee for every Lebanese is accord and commitment to it and an end to indulgence in dreams.

Al-Shar', U.S. Jewish Leader Do Not Meet

JN0111132389 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Dispatch from Damascus by Louis Faris]

[Text] I have learned from a source in the Syrian delegation that accompanied Minister Faruq al-Shar' to the 44th UN General Assembly session in New York that no meeting was held between Al-Shar', or any other Syrian official in New York, and Malcolm Hoenlein, a U.S. Jewish leader.

The source said: Perhaps Hoenlein was among the many U.S. figures who were invited by the U.S. Council of Foreign Relations to listen to the lecture that the Syrian foreign minister delivered in New York on 5 October while he was participating in the 44th UN General Assembly session. The source added: It is to be noted that Al-Shar's lecture, which was introduced by former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, contained an explanation of Syria's foreign policy and a condemnation of the Israeli rulers' policy of repression in the occupied Arab territories—a policy that is hostile to peace and which is seen as the principal factor of tension in the region.

General Talas Attends Naval Tactical Exercise

JN0111212489 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Unattributed report]

[Text] On the instructions of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, one of our naval combat units has carried out a tactical exercise with live ammunition. The exercise was attended by General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces; the major general commander of the Naval Forces; and a number of senior naval and coastal area officers.

At the outset, the director of the exercise explained the stages and the training objectives of the exercise. He gave a general description of the participating units and the simulated enemy naval targets. Then the exercise began, with intensive shooting at targets. The units taking part succeeded in scoring direct hits and in destroying and sinking their targets.

At the end of the exercise, the general thanked the exercise administration and the naval unit commanders participating in the exercise, wishing them further success. He stressed that training in the use of weapons and equipment, paying proper attention to the fighters, and obtaining further military information are basic factors in maintaining high combat readiness and capabilities of a high caliber. He also stated that our coasts will remain impregnable and fortified against the enemy, and that our waters will remain free from the filth of the aggressors, because our naval forces, thanks to their advanced weapons and high level of performance, are capable of carrying out these tasks efficiently. Their motto is always the motto of their heroic leader: "Martyrdom or victory," until the realization of our Arab masses' goals of victory and liberation of the occupied Arab territory.

Afghanistan

Foreign Ministry Condemns Pakistani Position

LD0211180989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan responded to a question from a BIA correspondent concerning the statement by Nasim Ahmad, Pakistani ambassador and representative in the United Nations, which he made at a news conference in New York yesterday:

In consideration of the political and military realities and the developments which have taken place in the Republic of Afghanistan following the withdrawal of the Soviet units, all countries of the world, with the exception of three or four, support a political solution for the Afghan situation and the maintenance of peace in the country. Such a position was clearly seen at the nonaligned conference in Belgrade, as well as the current session of the UN General Assembly. The resolution which was approved at the United Nations concerning the political solution of the question of Afghanistan—in addition to other measures relating to Afghanistan—urged that the war should cease and negotiations begin.

Pakistan, which itself voted for this resolution, is now resorting to making unrealistic, premiditated, and interventionist remarks against the legal state of the Republic of Afghanistan contrary to international intentions and opinion and has given itself the right to speak on behalf of the people of Afghanistan who themselves have the right to choose their own destiny and the destiny of their country, and has thus interfered in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan in a brazen and open manner, shamelessly insulting the independence and national sovereignty of the people of Afghanistan.

Now that the international community is searching for peaceful ways to end the destructive war in the Republic of Afghanistan and is approving measures in this direction through the most credible international forum, the United Nations, neither the people of Afghanistan nor the people of the world give Pakistan or any other country the right or permission to dictate their terms in this regard. Pakistan, in violating the Geneva accords and continuing the fratricidal war in the land of the Afghans, has become the main obstacle to ceasing war, bloodshed, and destruction in the Republic of Afghanistan, and is hampering a peaceful solution to the Afghan question. Pakistan has consistently tried to conceal its international isolation with regard to the question of Afghanistan, by making loud noises. It has now attempted to show its discontent with the resolution passed at the 44th session of the United Nations, a resolution which is indicative of the will of all people of the world for a political solution of the question of Afghanistan.

The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly condemns these statements by the Pakistani representative to the United Nations and views this as yet another act of isolation and desperation of Pakistan in connection with the question of Afghanistan and a clear indication of the inclination of that country to continue war and bloodshed in Afghanistan.

Soviet Delegation Meets With Koshani, Mangal

LD0311094889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0417 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 2, BAKHTAR—Mahbubullah Koshani, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) met in his office on Nov. 1, 1989 with the delegation of the USSR State Planning Committee headed by F.V. Prosov, chairman of that committee. The delegation had arrived to Kabul to take part in the session of the Afghan-Soviet Sub-Commission for Cooperation in the Planning Affairs.

Also, the Soviet delegation had a meeting at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers of the RA with Sarwar Mangal, deputy prime minister, and exchanged views on matters of mutual interests, during the day.

Holds Talks With Barialay, Amin

LD0311095589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 2, BAKHTAR—Mahmud Barialay and Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, deputy-prime-ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) today had separate meetings in their offices with the delegation of the State Committee for Planning of the Soviet Union, headed by V.W. Prosov, which had come to Kabul recently at the invitation of the RA Ministry of Planning.

During this meetings, the sides, discussed issues relating to USSR economic cooperation to the RA, expansion of cooperation and assistance of the USSR to the RA in the trade, industry and financial spheres, expansion and acceleration the activities of private sector and completion of the technical documents of the projects of private sector of the country by utilization of the 50 million roubles of the USSR's credits.

Najibullah Receives Swedish Reporter 3 Nov

LD0311093989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, November 2, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan today received Pierre Alison a reporter of Sweden in Gol Khanah Presidential Palace, reported BAKHTAR.

President Najibullah replied to the questions raised by the journalist in connection with the military-political situation in Afghanistan, materialization the policy of national reconciliation and its gains and peaceful proposals of the RA.

Explosion in Rebel Arms Depot Causes Deaths

BK0311100889 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] A strong explosion has reportedly taken place in an arms and ammunition depot of Mawlawi Nabi extremist group in the areas related to Bakva District of Farah Province, reports the military section of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY. The explosion caused by a mine placed by rebel group, [words indistinct] surface-to-surface rockets, arms and ammunition caught fire and human losses were caused.

Qandahar Commander Reviews Security Situation

LD0211111489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 1, BAKHTAR—Over one year has elapsed since the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Qandahar Province. During this period, the situation in the province has greatly been changed, said, Lt. Gen. Nur al-Haq 'Ulomi, chief of the Armed Forces and commander of Army Corps in Qandahar in an interview with daily KABUL TIMES reporter.

The war has not [as received] practically ended in Qandahar and in its suburbs.

The opposition extremists have been divided into two factions: The first one is constituted mainly of the extremist groups of Golbuddin, Sayyaf and Khalis who are under the direct influence and pressure of the Pakistani Punjabis, and Saudi Wahhabis. Under the command of their foreign masters, these extremists fight not only against the state power but also against the civilians, he said.

The second group are those armed opposition who have realized the futility of the fratricidal war and have been inspired by the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation. They not only refrain from fighting against the popular power, but also prevent the war-mongers from killing Muslims and destroying the homeland, 'Ulomi added.

The Qandahar inhabitants strongly reject all ominous and destructive designs of the extremists. For instance, sometime back, the enemy brought a money-loaded vehicle to Qandahar from across the border.

The money was supposed to be distributed to the people against [as received] the destruction of Dahla Dam. The patriotic people of Qandahar showed a serious reaction against the enemy's design and pushed back the vehicle. Qandahar has a border of 410 km with Pakistan. Now in Qandahar exists none of those who previously were fighting under the name of Islam and Jihad, he stated.

The enemy has lost the ability of face-to-face fighting, and now their shells hit the residential quarters and security posts from long distances.

While touching on caravan arrival to Qandahar, he said, first of all I should say that it was not only one caravan, we have transferred here several caravans. The caravans reached their destination successfully. In our preliminary contacts with the opposition field commanders most of them promised not to attack the caravan. Only a few groups of the sold-out extremists made some piratic attacks under the command of their Pakistani and Wahhabi patrons which caused nominal losses.

Those elements who have lost their spirit of patriotism and humanism, resort to any action against the people for the sake of dollars and rupees.

These profit-makers fight each other usually for drug-smuggling and looting public properties. They also fight against the groups who have given up the killing of their Muslim countrymen and destruction of the homeland, 'Ulomi remarked.

Recently fierce clashes broke between the extremist groups of Jamiyat and Hezb-e Eslami in which 50 men of the sides were killed only in a single day. Such fightings are still continuing.

While replying to a question on rehabilitation of Qandahar, he stressed, that during the last ten years of war, 70 percent of Qandahar city has been damaged. Rehabilitation of such huge losses requires untiring efforts, sufficient materials and tools as well as time. Nothwithstanding the problems, the residents of Qandahar who believe in the victory of peace and the policy of national reconciliation, have already started the reconstruction of the city. The number of shops increased to double [as received], compared to the last year. We have undertaken the building of new houses for people coming to their abodes from foreign countries. We have asked for experts from the capital to make a survey of the city and regulate its rehabilitation plan.

We consider ourselves obliged to constantly defend the city on the one hand and reconstruct it on the other.

Military Successes in Provinces Detailed

LD0211180489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] In Khowst Major District units and companies of the country's heroic Armed Forces are engaged in equipping and consolidating their positions. BAKHTAR's military section reports that over the last 3 days the joint enemy forces, consisting of armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis have not been able to undertake combat operations due to pressure from the Armed Forces. Using heavy weapons, the warmongers launched attacks against (Esma'il Kheyl), Tani, (Yaqubi), (Zazi Maydan), and against some parts of Khowst and Gardeyz cities. Three members of the military and two local people were injured. In retaliation, the Armed Forces launched artillery and Air Force strikes against the extremists' assembly points, as a result of which 106 members of the joint enemy were taken out

of combat. A total of four recoilless guns, six rocket launchers, eight mortars, two trucks carrying weapons and ammunition, and a number of light weapons were destroyed.

The report adds that the Armed Forces units in Nangarhar Province have further consolidated their defense lines and are in a state of high combat readiness. Some units have completely repelled a series of attacks launched by the enemy forces 2 days ago from [words indistinct] in the direction of Samar Kheyl and have inflicted heavy loss of life on the armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis. The units are successfully accomplishing their tasks in all directions. The enemy launched heavy weapons attacks against the security belt of Samar Kheyl and Behsud over the last 3 days as a result of which one member of the Armed Forces was martyred and seven were wounded. In order to neutralize the criminal actions of the criminals, their positions were brought under shattering artillery and air strikes, in which 146 of the enemy were taken out of combat. Thirty ammunition stores, one recoilless gun, one mortar, and several assorted light weapons belonging to them were destroyed.

According to another report, the Armed Forces units and companies in Qandahar Province carried out mopping up operations southeast of Zaker-e Sharif village and in (Khoshab) village as a result of which 562 strongholds belonging to armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis, 296 trenches, and 4 km of linking tunnels were destroyed. Some 670 rounds for recoilless guns, 600 rounds for rocket launchers, 500 mortar mines, 200 boxes of Kalashnikov ammunition, 150 boxes of ZK-1 ammunition, 80 boxes of DShK ammunition, 200 rounds for 200mm guns, 1 DShK, 2 mortars, 20 antivehicle mines, 200 antipersonnel mines, more than 100,000 rounds of assorted ammunition, and 280 rocket missiles were seized from them.

'Extremist Groups' Clash in Various Provinces

LD0211112789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 1, BAKHTAR—A dreadful explosion has recently occurred in one of the arms depots of Mawlawi Khalis extremist groups in Bakwa District, Farah Province, reports our military correspondent.

Hundreds of surface to surface rockets and different kinds of arms and munitions were burnt and human losses were also inflicted upon the said group. Based on another report severe clashes have recently happened [words indistinct] in Mirbachakoot District, Kabul Province. About 20 persons from the rival faction were killed and 24 others got injuries. Heavy material losses were inflicted upon the local [words indistinct] as well.

According to a report broadcasted by Radio BBC, following the armed clashes between extremist groups of Jamiyat and Golbuddin in Takhar Province, conflicts have been intensified between the two groups in other provinces of the country as well.

Quoting Ghulam Rasul Zargar, an extremist attached to Jamiyat band who has escaped from Golbuddin's prison, BBC says two months ago armed clashes started in Jaji area, Paktia Province, between Jamiyat and Golbuddin groups while a Golbuddin group attacked on an arms convoy of Jamiyat there. All members of the convoy were emprisoned by Golbuddin's men and twelve trucks loaded with arms were also seized.

In its interview to the Radio BBC, Ghulam Rasul said that he and his 21 entourages were taken hostage by Golbuddin's (?members) and were emprisoned for 45 [word indistinct]. He added that they were tortured and insulted during their imprisonment as well. He was the only one to escape from Golbuddin's prison.

Based on another report four armed opposition groups comprising of 50 persons have recently joined the national reconciliation policy in Badakhshan and Takhar Provinces.

The ringleaders of the said groups spoke on behalf of others in a meeting held on the occasion. They expressed their readiness to take active part in ensurance of peace in their localities.

Mujahidin Attack Qandahar Airport, Destroy Plane

BK0211153289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin launched a rocket attack on the Qandahar Airport and destroyed one jet aircraft and a food warehouse. They also killed 14 Kabul regime troopers and destroyed two tanks and two wireless sets at the airport.

According to the news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], the mujahidin also made a surprise attack on KHAD and militia bases in Baghlan Province, killing 10 troopers and capturing 13 machineguns and other ammunition, besides destroying two tanks.

Another report says the mujahidin blocked a road between Mazar-e Sharif and Kurram in Samangan Province and prevented all sorts of troops movement.

Meanwhile, four children and two women were killed in bombing runs by the Kabul regime's planes in (Gani Kheyl) near Jalalabad. The Kabul regime also fired three Scud missiles which destroyed many houses and wounded many mujahidin.

India

Gandhi Rejects Defense Minister's Resignation

BK0211151789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1507 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 2 (AFP)—Indian Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant said Thursday [2 November] that he had offered to quit after revolting against the ruling party's leadership, but Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi rejected his resignation.

Mr. Pant told reporters on the lawns of his official residence here that he had made the offer in a letter to the prime minister Monday after rebelling against the ruling Congress (I) Party's decision not to field him as a candidate in parliamentary elections to Parliament this month from his home town of Nainital.

"He (Mr. Gandhi) replied asking me to continue," the minister said. He did not say how Mr. Gandhi replied to him or whether he would canvass for the Congress (I) in the parliamentary elections on November 22, 24 and 26.

Mr. Pant's statements followed rumours that he had resigned to protest the style of functioning of the Congress (I), of which Mr. Gandhi is the president.

Mr. Pant struck a major blow to Mr. Gandhi Monday by declining to contest the elections from two constituencies picked by the Congress (I) and lashed out against "bossism" and "certain undesirable trends" in the party. He claimed the prime minister had earlier agreed to his candidacy from Nainital, in northern Uttar Pradesh State, but had apparently changed his mind under pressure from "inexperienced non-political coteries".

The angry outburst by the normally suave Mr. Pant created a stir within the Congress (I), while the opposition reacted with glee, describing the minister's action as a tell-tale portent for the ruling party in the coming elections.

The Congress (I) is expected to face a tough battle in parliamentary elections from a near-united and determined opposition which has vowed to end Mr. Gandhi's five-year term.

HINDU Defends Authenticity of Bofors Documents

BK0311072189 Hong Kong AFP in English 0706 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 3 (AFP)—A respected Indian newspaper editor insisted Friday [3 November] that a published document linking Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his "intimates" with a major payoff scandal was authentic.

The charges of "forgery" levelled by Mr. Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) Party were "transparently self-serving," THE HINDU's associate editor Narasimhan Ram said in a hard-hitting statement published by newspapers here. "We assure our readers that... we deal with authenticated and carefully verified documents and information of the kind the Anand Sharmas have evidently no respect for," Mr. Ram said.

Congress (I) spokesman Anand Sharma on Wednesday accused Mr. Ram of practising "instigated journalism" in the name of "investigative journalism" by publishing documents with "gaping holes."

The charge came a day after THE HINDU alleged Mr. Gandhi was personally involved in the scandal in which key Indians have been accused of taking bribes from Sweden's Bofors to grant a 1.3 billion dollar artillery deal in 1986.

To back up its charge, THE HINDU published a facsimile of a July 1987 entry from former Bofors president Martin Ardbo's diary about a meeting between an unnamed "Gandhi trustee lawyer" and Bob Wilson. Mr. Wilson was identified as a representative of A.E. Services, a London firm suspected of being one of the front companies which allegedly received millions of dollars in kickbacks from Bofors.

THE HINDU called the reported meeting "direct and irrefutable evidence" of "the direct and personal involvement of the prime minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and his intimates in the corrupt Bofors payoff to A.E. Services, Ltd."

Mr. Sharma, speaking to reporters here, said it was "intriguing" that Mr. Ardbo had used an Indian diary, that he had noted a Geneva telephone number which did not exist in 1987, and that he had used English for "Gandhi trustee lawyer" when he had written everything else in Swedish.

Mr. Ram, who has conducted THE HINDU's Bofors expose together with Geneva correspondent Chitra Subramaniam, refuted Mr. Sharma's accusations in detail and said the charges were "legally actionable". He added that it was "preposterous and obnoxious" to allege forgery over his English-language daily's "journalistic investigation which has been widely recognised for its honesty, integrity, accuracy and fairness."

Mr. Sharma said the Bofors scandal, which broke in 1987, had been "hatched by a frustrated opposition" and kept alive by newspapers with an eye on parliamentary elections now barely three weeks away.

Mr. Gandhi, 45, has denied his family's involvement in the alleged payoff, but has repeatedly contradicted himself under the weight of media exposures of the corruption scandal, India's biggest to date.

The scandal has led to innumerable rows in parliament and is expected to be a major issue in the elections on November 22, 24 and 26.

Plan To Boost Natural Gas Production Detailed

BK0311100089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] The Center is to invest 5,000 crore rupees to make natural gas a major substitute for petroleum and commercial activities during the coming years. Giving the details of the plan, the petroleum and natural gas secretary, Mr H.K. Khan, told newsmen in New Delhi today that the production of natural gas is set for a quantum jump from the existing 34 to 80 million cubic meters a day by the end of the eighth [5-year development] plan. He said all identified gas fields will be developed, fresh pipelines laid, and existing terminals strengthened. Mr Khan said the flaring of gas, which costs over 1 crore rupees a day, will be totally eliminated by 1994. The fertilizers and power plants will be main users of the available gas after the petrochemicals and sponge iron industry.

The western on-shore region, which is to be expanded at the cost of 2,000 crore rupees, will contribute 14 million cubic meters of gas and 1,500 tons of LPG [liquified petroleum gas]. The Krishna-Godavari in the Cauvery region will produce about 7 million cubic meters, most of which will also be free gas. The eastern region, Tripura, and Rajasthan have also shown good potential and together they are expected to contribute 10 million cubic meters of gas by the end of the eighth plan.

Editorial Discusses Pakistan's Nuclear Claims

BK0311102789 Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Oct 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Nuclear Claim"]

[Text] Dr Abdus Qadeer Khan, the nuclear research boss of Pakistan, has claimed that Pakistan had "full capability for enriching uranium and that the coming years will see great success in this field by Pakistani engineers". It may be recalled that a few months ago, Dr Khan had claimed to have developed a completely new technique to enrich uranium at lower temperature, using much less energy. The scientific community anywhere in the world has not been able to corroborate this breakthrough. His reported statement promises successes by the engineers in the coming years. The wording of the statement indicates that the success, if any, is perhaps in the laboratories of the scientists and the engineers involved in the pilot plant, and a production plant has yet to step in. We should also be aware of the planned disinformation attempts of Dr Khan regarding his achievements vis-a-vis India in the field of nuclear weaponry. However, independent US sources have been saying for more than a year that Pakistan has been operating its uranium enrichment facility since 1987 and that by now it should have accumulated enough weapon-grade uranium for more than ten thermonuclear bombs. Whether Dr Khan can assemble a bomb which the Pakistan armed forces would accept for field use is another matter. This is in spite of the alleged tests carried out in China or the possible use of computer modelling to eliminate testing. Further, Pakistan is still far from establishing a source of plutonium and later its enrichment for use in fission bombs. We are sure that the Indian Government has this information and perhaps additional intelligence data and it is fully prepared for all eventualities.

Iran

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD0311123889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] On the eve of 4 Nov, the national day of struggle against global arrogance with America, the world devourer, at its head, our Muslim compatriots all over the country today held the religious-political rites of Friday prayers.

Today the people of Tehran also followed the long-standing Mohamadan tradition under the leadership of Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili with their vast and solid presence at Tehran University and adjacent streets.

In the first Friday prayers sermon the acting Friday prayers leader of Tehran explained the meaning of the term arrogance from the point of view of Islam and the Koran. Referring to crimes of global arrogance led by America against victimized nations in various parts of the world, he enumerated some of America's many crimes against the Muslim nation of Iran, especially from the beginning of the Islamic revolution until now. He then said that the capture of the former American espionage den by Muslim students following the line of the imam, an act which humiliated America, is among the pride-inspiring achievements of the Islamic revolution. We must keep alive the rhetoric of that pride. We must not pay the slightest attention to promises by America, who is the crystallization of global arrogance. That is why the path chosen by our country's officials and the nation is that of not showing a happy face to global arrogance. Our religious duty is to continue that path.

Referring to difficulties that the government encounters, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili said in his second sermon that the government is making every effort within its powers to remove the difficulties. Time is needed for these efforts to yield results. Therefore, we also must not sit idly by and say that difficulties must be solved by officials of the country; rather, we must help the government and the officials, to the best of our ability, solve the problems. Meanwhile, those who think solely of making profits, especially the hoarders, profiteers, and speculators, must know that their deeds are agains the shari'a as well as human honor. And they must also know that their earnings are not legitimate.

Continuing the second sermon and condemning the outcome of the al-Ta'if meeting, the acting Friday

prayers leader of Tehran said that the meeting paid no attention to so much fighting, destruction, and murder of Muslims in Lebanon and, as such, it ignored the rights of the Muslim majority of that country as opposed to the Maronite minority. That meeting was blatant treason against Islam and Muslims.

Calls Al-Ta'if Meeting 'Treason'

LD0311124689 Tehran IRNA in English 1205 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 3, IRNA—Tehran's substitute Friday prayers leader Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili called for a better recognition of the "dirty nature of arrogance from scientific and cultural points of view."

Ayatollah Ardabili also called on thinkers, university professors, theologians and literary men to confront global arrogance by furthering their cultural and scientific activities.

Speaking at Friday prayers sermons to a large group of worshippers at the Tehran University campus and its nearby streets, the former chief justice termed the seizure of the 'U.S. den of spies' on Nov. 4, 1979 by the Muslim students following the imam's line as an 'honour and a most important achievement' of the Islamic revolution.

Elsewhere, the ayatollah lauded the timely and praiseworthy measure taken by the Iranian Majlis against the U.S. state-sponsored terrorism. He urged the people to further back their representatives in the Majlis, saying it was a religious duty to carry on the fight against the U.S.

In retaliation for a similar move taken by the U.S. Senate recently, the Majlis on Wednesday passed a law empowering the president to issue instructions for the arrest and trial in Islamic courts here of U.S. citizens or agents who may jeopardize the interests of the Islamic Republic or threaten lives and properties of Iranians abroad.

The prayers leader also condemned the results of the recent al-Ta'if conference (in Saudi Arabia) which, he noted, was dominated by global arrogance.

Ayatollah Ardabili described the results of the al-Ta'if meet as 'an open treason' against the Islamic world and called on the Lebanese militant Muslims to be ever resistant.

He also condemned the recent banning by France and Turkey of the hejab (Islamic covering for women) expressing hatred against these countries and others which supported this "unprincipled move."

Mohtashemi Sees No Differences Among Leaders

LD0311100889 Tehran IRNA in English 0953 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—Former Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi today termed as "totally erroneous" the Western media's propaganda efforts to divide Iranian officials into two camps, the so-called moderates and radicals. "The methods of confronting the enemy may differ, but one thing is sure, the friends of the (late) imam and those who have been in the forefront of the revolution are full of resentment against the common foe," Mohtashemi told IRNA. There is no difference of opinion, among those who accompanied the imam, knew him very well, and played the role in making the Islamic revolution successful, he added.

Mohtashemi, who handled the home affairs portfolio in ex-Premier Hoseyn Musavi's cabinet, is to address the November 4 ceremonies at the U.S. spy den, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the take-over of the U.S. Embassy by Muslim students following Imam Khomeyni's path. November 4 has been named as the "Day of National Resistance" against global arrogance, and a bonfire will be made of 160 American flags at the ceremony, in memory of the 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims martyred by the regime ruling Hejaz.

"Conservative or extremist in the Western sense of the words are just alien expressions to Islam, and when a common enemy is concerned a Muslim has just one single outlook," said Hoj. Mohtashemi. The main reason the Western media likes to play with these terms, is its animosity towards the Islamic revolution and the late leader's thoughts, he said. However, as the forces of the revolution very well know, the Islamic Republic officials are united and no power can face them, he added.

Elsewhere, Mohtashemi described the objective of his visit to Lebanon as his "profound concern for that country's fate and the struggles of the Lebanese Muslims.

"I assured Lebanese Muslims and all revolutionary brethren that there has been no change in our policies after the passing away of Imam Khomeyni, and the Islamic Republic leadership is determined to help realize the late leader's goals," he said emphatically.

Foreign Ministry's Statement on Embassy Takeover

NC0311062889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] On the eve of 4 November, the national day of struggle against world arrogance spearheaded by the world-devouring United States, our country's Foreign Ministry issued a statement.

In this statement, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry declares 4 November as the national day for struggle against world arrogance spearheaded by the world-devouring United States and adds:

November 4th is the day when the U.S. center for carrying out plots against the Iranian nation and the Islamic revolution became a target. It was a turning point in the unending struggle of the revolutionary Muslims of Iran against world arrogance led by the United States.

The statement adds: The qualitative change in the viewpoint and modus operandi of the Muslim revolutionary nation of Iran against the United States, along with Iran's shattering of the false grandeur of this arrogant power, explains why there are such wide-ranging conspiracies against the Islamic Republic of Iran, conspiracies such as the imposition of a war, economic embargo, various kinds of political and propaganda pressures, military attacka in the Persian Gulf, and the attack on the Iranian passenger airliner.

The Islamic Republic of Iran declares that the grand celebration of 4 November in the Islamic Republic of Iran is an indication of the fact that, because of the vigilance of the Muslim and revolutionary nations, there is no reason to accept such domination. If the United States persists in its hostile policy, which includes the recent bill approved by the U.S. Senate that creates a "capitulation" [preceding word in English] on an international level and a legal cover for kidnapping, it will encounter the resistant wall of Islamic awakening throughout the world.

Yazdi Issues Statement

LD0211134989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] On the eve of 4 Nov [anniversary of occupation of U.S. Embassy], the national day of struggle against global arrogance headed by the world-devourer America, Mr Yazdi, the head of Judiciary, issued a statement.

One section of the statement pays tribute to the memory of the uprising of Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified, aimed at rejuvenating the honor and magnificence of the pure Mohammadan Islam. The statement says:

I am confident that the Hezbollah ummah, in continuation of the bright and shining path of that great leader, may God further enhance his honor, and under the guidances of the world Muslims' vice regent [vali-e amr], His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may his shadow extend, will continue its shout of protest against the United States by participating in that day's ceremonies, which have been organized by the Coordination Council of the Islamic Propaganda Organization. The Hezbollah people will continue the path of our dear imam by raising their voices shouting "Death to America."

Cooper Not Among Released Prisoners

NC0311130989 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] Tehran—Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said yesterday that a number of prisoners will be released soon.

Addressing a press conference Ayatollah Yazdi said that a list of the inmates have been submitted to Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i for his approval.

He did not go into details but said "as soon as the final approval comes to the Judiciary the prisoners will be freed." In answer to a question Ayatollah Yazdi said that "British prisoner Roger Cooper is not among those who have been recommended for release."

Cooper was arrested in 1985 on charges of spying against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ayatollah Yazdi also said that efforts are being made to improve conditions in the Iranian prisons.

U.S. Documents To Be Displayed

LD0211141289 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—Documents on U.S. crimes against the Islamic Republic of Iran will be put on display inside the former U.S. den of espionage (embassy) in Tehran on November 4.

The exhibition, sponsored by the Information Ministry, will be set up on a 400 square meter area, simultaneously with the 10th anniversary of the takeover of the U.S. den of espionage by the students following the (late) Imam Khomeyni's path.

On display are espionage devices and documents on Washington's politico-economic plots against the Islamic Republic, its interferences in the Afghan issue and the role of American spies in Iran before the capture of its embassy.

The documents seized from the U.S. den of espionage are in connection with internal power struggles among officials of the former monarchial regime in Iran and discussions of former Iranian members of parliament on a bill immunizing all U.S. citizens committing offences, against legal prosecution.

The exhibition will be open to the public for five days.

Guardians' Council Endorses Majlis Law on U.S.

LD0211150589 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—The Council of Guardians on Thursday endorsed a law passed by the Majlis Wednesday calling for stepped up efforts to counter U.S.-sponsored terrorism.

The council declared as being "in compliance with the shari'a (Islamic laws) and the Constitution" the law which empowers the president of the Islamic Republic to take reprisal measures against Washington's threats against Iran's interests and its nationals abroad.

The law can be applied to any country which either directly or indirectly collaborated with the U.S. in kidnapping or endangering the lives of Iranian citizens abroad. It also calls for prosecution and arrest of any American citizens or their agents found guilty by Iranian courts.

The move is in retaliation to a similar one taken by the U.S. Senate which empowers the FBI to kidnap or arrest any foreign citizens that American courts find guilty, anywhere in the world.

Velayati, USSR's Katushev Praise Relations

LD0211132589 Tehran IRNA in English 1300 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—Visiting Soviet Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin F. Katushev in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Thursday termed the understanding reached between the two countries as being at its 'highest level.'

'There are plenty of grounds for cooperation between the two countries... the prospect of our ties has gone beyond the 20th century,' he said.

Katushev said he was here in line with the political determination of the Soviet leadership to materialize the common goals the two neighboring countries have achieved.

He said it was clear to everyone that the two powerful states of Iran and the Soviet Union could be highly influential in solving any issue with a view to their common outlooks.

Velayati replied 'never in the history of relations between the two neighboring countries, the prospect of mutual ties were so bright and desirable.'

He said 'we have no doubt that the way the two countries have chosen to expand their ties is based on an essential and strategic decision which can play a key role in the region and international community in the future.'

The Soviet minister arrived here Wednesday.

Natural Gas To Transit USSR to European Countries

LD0211200589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] In the continuing talks between the economic delegations of the USSR and the Islamic Republic of Iran which were held today, the issue of Iranian natural gas transit via Soviet territory to the European countries was discussed and both countries reached agreement on the subject.

According to a Central News Unit report, the discussions on fixing the volume, timing, and other conditions for the transit of the Iranian gas via Soviet territory will begin between the relevant organizations' experts from the two countries by the end of the current Christian year at the latest.

Intellectuals Cited on Islamic Attire in Turkey

NC0311082389 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Speaking at a seminary conference in Istanbul on Sunday, a group of university lecturers and Muslim intellectuals described the obstruction by Turkish officials of attendance at the universities by girl students dressed in Islamic attire as an approach which conflicts with freedom of faith and religion and with human rights. Reporting on the matter yesterday, MILLI GAZETE quoted Professor Osman Ozturk as saying that the wearing of Islamic attire is an article of Islamic belief and that opposition to it violates human rights. Professor Ozturk said that what the Muslims want is their rights.

Speaking at the same conference, Necati Ceylan, chairman of the Association of Turkish Lawyers, stressed the need for constitutional amendments. He said: The existing legal problems stem from the conflict between the Constitution and the people's judgement of values.

Ceylan also asserted that the approach adopted on the question of Islamic attire tramples upon the rights of Muslims in Turkey.

Reaction to Choice of New Navy Commander

Majlis Deputies Praise Decision

LD0211211189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] One hundred and sixty-four deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly have sent a letter to the presence of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, expressing their appreciation for the good choice of Commodore 'Ali Shamkhani as commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Toilers Radio on 'Sudden Action'

LD0211203389 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Dear compatriots, the sudden action of the regime in replacing the Navy commander and the appointment of Shamkhani instead of Commodore Malekzadegan has become the subject of discussions among most political and news circles.

Khamene'i, in explaining this action, tried to show that the replacement of the Navy commander took place to bring together the Army and the Guards. But everyone knows that the real reasons for this replacement is the continuing and increasing differences between the Army and the Guards. Khamene'i, with calculated clarity, admitted the regime's lack of confidence in the Army and in particular the Navy. He said that efforts should be made to introduce, as soon as possible, elements of commitment and belief in the Navy, and unconditional support for the Islamic Republic.

These remarks do not need any kind of explanation and show that the officers and other Navy personnel are not prepared to accept anti-democratic pressures from the Middle Ages.

Making Mr Shamkhani a commodore overnight and giving him the post of Navy commander shows the regime's lack of confidence in the Navy personnel. The reason for this is clear. Of the three armed services, the Iranian Navy carries the most weight in scientific, technical, and expert areas, and the personnel of that force are drawn mainly from educated, informed, and cultured people. There are many patriotic and freedom-seeking officers among them. Therefore, forcing the Islamic Republic's backward and reactionary ideas into the Navy is never easy, and this force has always remained the center for protest against the regime's policies.

But another important point which should be considered is the effects of replacements such as the change of the Navy commander. We said that the old differences between the Army and the Guards and the regime considering the Army as a step-child is the regime's main reason for appointing Shamkhani in place of an educated and expert commodore. But this same issue will bring about new differences in relations between the Army and the Guards which will complicate the problem.

It is not possible for the Navy, with the abovementioned characteristics, to follow the orders of an element such as Shamkhani. Therefore, some new problems will arise for the regime. The problem that existed from the beginning of bringing the Guards close to the Army still exists today.

The recent move in the Navy shows once more that despite the Islamic Republic's claims, problems between the two parallel Armed Forces are still there and in full force—problems that the regime is still unable to finally resolve and bring under control.

Officers Criticize Promotion

TA0311153389 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] A number of commanders and officers who participated in the 8-year-long Iran-Iraq war sent a letter to Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i criticizing the promotion of 'Ali Shamkhani to the rank of rear admiral and his title of commander of Islam.

Larijani Comments on Future of Persian Gulf

NC0211224589 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 26 Oct 89 p 20

[Dr Mohammad Javad Larijani commentary: "For the Future of the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] 1. There is ample proof that U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf is based on three main axes: expanding its defense-security pacts with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, keeping the Gulf Cooperation Council at a distance from Iran, and instigating and using the Iraqi regime as leverage against Iran and seeking to "rectify" Iran's Islamic revolution.

2. Despite all the propaganda, Iran is no threat to the security of Kuwait and of Saudi Arabia. The major threat comes from the Iraqi regime which has a long record of this. Keeping the Gulf Cooperation Council at a distance from Iran will only result in continuing tension between Iran and these countries. The United States will then exploit this situation to strengthen its diktat and domination over the region. Finally, it is hoped that instigating Iraq against Iran, so long as this does not lead to war, will force Iran to retreat from its position as the leader of the Islamic world. This would be the beginning of a "process" to rectify the Islamic Revolution.

This is the "gist" of how U.S. politicians think about the region and Iran.

3. The truth is that the Persian Gulf is facing two major threats today. One is Iraq's wish to become the regional gendarme and the other concerns the efforts by foreign governments to preserve and expand their political-military influence in this wealthy part of the world. The title of regional gendarme is not enough for Iraq; it also wants to be able to solve its economic problems through "extortion"! The Arab countries have already harmed themselves by allowing Iraq to sample the sweet taste of bribes. Meanwhile, the Islamic revolution's confrontation with U.S. domination is a fire which will never extinguish and which has spread to every corner of the Islamic world. Therefore, the only healthy thing to do is to keep a distance from U.S. domination, not from Iran!

4. The best way to safeguard the Persian Gulf is to adopt a policy of regional security. In this context, regional security is a collective and strictly regional issue. It is collective, and so there is no need for a regional gendarme; it is regional in the sense that is based only on the interests of the countries of the region and so has nothing to do with countries thousands of miles away. In my opinion, the Gulf Cooperation Council should include both Iran and Iraq as soon as possible. Within the framework of this comprehensive council, all border and diplomatic differences between countries should be solved on the basis of respect for their sovereignty and territorial integrity. More important, the vast potential of this area should be used for the development and progress of its nations and for the world of Islam.

* Khorasani Statement Dismissed As 'Personal View'

46000030 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Sep 89 p 2

[Text] KEYHAN Political Service—A statement issued by the Majlis Foreign Affairs Commission described the views of the head of this commission [Sa'id Raja'i-Khorasani] regarding efforts to establish political ties

with Saudi Arabia as his personal views. The commission emphasized that the Majlis Foreign Affairs Commission will intensely heed the views of the imam. The text of the statement which was given to KEYHAN by the Majlis public relations office is as follows:

During recent days, there have been published reports in the media both in the country and abroad attributed to the head of the Foreign Affairs Commission regarding the establishment of political relations with Saudi Arabia. These statements did not reflect the views of the Foreign Affairs Commission, but were personal views instead. It is obvious that the Majlis Foreign Affairs Commission will continuously and intensely heed the views of the imam and move in the circle of the guidance of that eminent leader, and in the absence of that dear departed, under the guidance of the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i.

KEYHAN Interviews Air Force Chief Sattari

PM0211154689 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Sep 89 p 18

[Interview with Brigadier General Mansur Sattari, commander of the Air Force, by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given]

[Text] [KEYHAN] A year has passed since the cease-fire in the war between Iran and Iraq. What actions have been taken during this time to safeguard the readiness of the Air Force, expand its equipment and facilities, and increase its fighting strength?

[Sattari] Following the acceptance of Resolution 598, there was a good oportunity to reorganize the units. Thanks to God, this work has progressed very well. We undertook a series of basic plans for repair work in the Air Force, including factory work, which have all produced results. With this project under way, our needs as far as airplane equipment from other countries is concerned, are guaranteed, because when dealing with major repairs, obtaining spares for our planes will become very easy. This will help future programs tremendously.

Our aim is to use the best and most modern flight equipment within the next 10 or 15 years. This action was necessary for our peace of mind in the future, and it was taken.

We have set up several assembly lines for the overhaul of several types of airplanes by the Air Force. Even heavy aircraft such as jumbo jets are now overhauled by the Air Force. During this Holy Defense Week, the third jumbo jet to be overhauled came off the line.

With regard to other types of aircract, such as the F-4, C-130, F- 27 and lighter aircraft, all of them without exception are overhauled by the Air Force. The rest are handled by the defense industry. In addition, there are depots which are being completed. Heavy electronic depots in Tehran and Esfahan and other electronic and repair depots are being built in various places. All this means that while our repair capacity will increase, our need for spares will decrease. This also means that our force's readiness will also increase and we can continue making plans.

This is the most important issue that has been worked on over the past year. At the moment our flight equipment and our aircraft are in much better shape and better prepared. We have even been able to repair some very old planes and recommission them. Our aim in this excerise is to show the strength of Air Force personnel. It is not just the use of these planes: In general there has been a pleasant and good atmosphere created in the Air Force, and we have a very bright future ahead of us.

At the moment, we are also discussing the expansion of our combat strength, which means that the manpower also has to be reorganized. Today we have the best gathering of experts in the country. The highest standard of experts in all fields—totalling some 500—exists today in the Air Force. Just 10 years after the revolution, despite the fact that world aggression cut off our supplies of spares, our men have done their work well. These are very valuable forces. While we rely on them today more than anything else, we have to think of the future, prepare the path of the future, bring in good young people, and transfer this talent to them. This is a major job which the Air Force has done throughout the country.

We are at present teaching the personnel that we need in all our different colleges, including the special Air Force school. Our flight school is also at present training a group of good pilots. In lesser levels of expertise, our young people are busy studying, some have graduated already and have entered various units. God willing, this transfer of expertise will continue logically in the future.

In any case, a force which has been at war for 10 years needs new equipment. I can tell you that during the war we obtained the best equipment for various missions. We also have many plans for the future, to provide aircraft and various other equipment. God willing, this will be done, and the people will see the results in military parades.

[KEYHAN] Under present conditions, when there is no war and no peace, what are the future plans for the Air Force?

[Sattari] Conditions dictate that we always be ready, especially as we are at the forefront of any attacks and rapid deployment is actually conducted by the Air Force. This is why we have to be completely ready. Our work includes both defense and offense. We must always be ready for aerial combat to deliver strikes at the enemy. We are ready for this. In the field of defense and support for the Ground Forces, moving units from one place to another, moving the wounded and equipment—these things are done by our heavy logistics units. We must always be ready for enemy's actions—and we are.

Alongside these programs, we must also think of long-term plans. Improving the quality of the training and expertise is important to us. There are several progams regarding this at the moment. Many of the pilots who take the basic courses in the pilot training school are trained on several types of aircraft.

[KEYHAN] What are the latest achievements and innovations of Air Force experts in repairing aircraft and manufacturing parts for them?

[Sattari] The self-sufficiency crusade in the Air Force has had several plans that have given results. During the war most of our actions were short-term in order to satisfy our needs of the moment with regard to preparing aircraft. But alongside these, we also had some long-term projects. At present, there are many plans being prepared by the office of the deputy of the self-sufficiency crusade, which are very valuable. In terms of their quality, they are world-class.

For example, one of the things shown during the recent military parade for Holy Defense Week were various planes refuelling from other aircraft. This will grant us maximum flexibility. At the moment, our fighter aircraft are capable of refuelling one another. The F-5's which did not have a refueling capacity now do, and the same goes for the F-4. At the moment, our planes have more than one refueling capability. Fighter aircraft can give fuel to other fighter aircraft.

Of course, we have had many such plans. The Air Force has to become self-sufficient. We have become aware of manufacturing. You know, the Parastu aircraft is the first plane ever built in this country. Today it is on the production line and at the moment many of them are needed and are being produced. We have many such plans in the Air Force.

At present we have perhaps some 1,000 projects—ranging from the manufacturing of spares to heavier pieces of equipment—under way in the Air Force. We have started mass production of energy [as published] spares numbering perhaps 1 million, which is something that will continue. We shall produce these parts for the next 5 or 10 years. We have other predictions with regard to our requirements, which are being worked on. These will be announced later, God willing.

[KEYHAN] How is the radar system being strengthened? What are the future plans in this area?

[Sattari] Under present conditions discussions focus on sensitive equipment which will help us detect the enemy's presence. Of course, this does not mean that we are weakening our radar system. We had wide experience in this area during the war, which prompted us to simplify our work, simplify the war—fighting well but in a simple manner. These things do not depend only on radar. The important thing is to find the enemy at the right time, in any way possible. Therefore, there is a whole range of equipment and facilities that allows us to do this, and radar is one of them.

We have a major set of plans for our existing equipment; they are very valuable. At the moment, we are busy providing the new equipment we need. We see no problems for the future. We are actively preparing equipment for our plans.

[KEYHAN] What about increasing the quality of operations by the Air Force?

[Sattari] We are now better prepared than we were this time last year, both in terms of striking at the enemy's vital and sensitive areas and also for the defense of the important centers in our own country. If, God forbid, the need ever arises, with the predictions that have been made, we must have complete coordination with all vital and sensitive centers in this country so that we can achieve this task jointly and quickly. This is how work progressed during the last years of the war. Of course, we are ready to face any threat.

[KEYHAN] Are there at present any foreign students studying in our Air Force academies?

[Sattari] We are completely ready to accept foreign students either in the pilots' school or in the Air Force academy, which is something that has been announced before. But at the moment we have no foreign students with us. This depends on the needs of friendly countries and the type of relations we have with them. As soon as officials feel a need in this area, we are ready to cooperate.

[KEYHAN] What plans have been made with regard to the Air Force's share of the money frozen by the United States?

[Sattari] The Air Force funds in the United States belong to the Ministry of Defense, so it is the government that is dealing with it. We give our help in terms of technical help and the manner of storage for the equipment in the United States, and things of that sort. But the bulk of the work is done by the Ministry of Defense. As far as I know, the brothers in the Ministry of Defense have always worked hard in this area to liberate these funds. The funds belong to us and they have nothing to do with world aggression. This property must be brought to Iran, placed at our disposal. Some of the material is our equipment, which we have paid for, and the rest is equipment which was taken there for repairs which now has to be returned to Iran. There are also some spares and equipment which were on the way and should have arrived in Iran, but the Americans actually prevented this material from leaving. We reaffirm that this is our equipment and the Americans have no rights as far as this is concerned. Even now the storage of this material is up to us. This material must be given back.

[KEYHAN] What actions have been taken as far as Air Force military maneuvers are concerned?

[Sattari] In maneuvers our most important role is to participate in joint exercises. This means that when there is talk of maneuvers the parts that concern us have to do

with support for other forces. We have participated in all exercises arranged by the Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolutionary Gulf Council, using fighter aircraft, radar systems and defense systems. As a result, the Air Force takes part in all these maneuvers.

In addition to this, we also have to increase our strength—not the sort that you gain from a maneuver, but through training. This is to make us ready to confront and carry out a mission. Therefore, there is constant training in dogfights, air-to-ground attacks, and the use of target fields. During the past year, as our operations decreased, we paid special attention to this aspect by increasing the number of hours spent in flight training.

[KEYHAN] Last question: Could you please give some details about the general state of the Air Force in terms of competing with other air forces in the region?

[Sattari] I state openly that today, after 10 years, in quantitative terms, we have less than some of the countries in the area—when considered individually. In terms of the quality of equipment, facilities, weapons, ammunition, and the various types of missiles that we have, we can say we are still one of the best air forces in the region. In terms of manpower and equipment, we are far ahead of all the other regional nations.

We have a chain of radar facilities, communications networks, and Air Force bases we have managed to maintain well, despite 10 years of war. Today we are better prepared than ever—like the first day of the war, even better. The Air Force is full of personnel of the highest quality, which is the backbone of any system or unit. This is the Air Force's major asset.

Furthermore, in terms of equipment, despite our vast territory, we are still ahead of many other nations. In terms of air logistics, we are also ahead of all the other regional countries. The logistical fleet of the Air Force includes light and small planes and helicopters, all the way up to the heaviest planes such as the jumbo jet. Using this equipment, we have transported our materiel from all corners of the world and are ready to do the same today.

In terms of defense equipment, with the plans that we have under way and the improvements that we are making to all our equipment, this material is some of the best in the world today. As far as fighter aircraft are concerned, those is at the disposal of the Air Force are still some of the best in the world, which everyone on all sides must acknowledge. The quality of these planes will be improved once we have obtained new equipment. When we talk about providing new equipment, it does not mean that we actually have to expand our system organization. Our air bases are in a state of high readiness and are capable of accepting all types of equipment.

This is why we can say that the Air Force has been kept in a vigorous, secure state, with high morale. It still presents the biggest threat to any enemy in the region.

President Meets With Former UK Prisoner Fuladi

LD0211221589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Kurosh Fuladi, who was recently released after 10 years of sustaining much hardship and torture in a British government prison, was received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. In this meeting, the president praised Fuladi's potent and resistant spirit and described him as a model of courage and resistance to the Muslim youth of the country.

Hojjat-ol Eslam Sayyid Muhammad Bakr Hakim, the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution in Iraq leader, also met and conferred with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning.

President, Musavi-Ardabili Discuss Current Issues

LD0211221889 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili met Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday. According to a Central News Unit report, in this meeting issues related to the seminaries, the current affairs of the country, and the revolution were discussed.

West's Indifference to Muslim Hostages Assailed

NC0211221989 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 Oct 89 p 20

[J. Keshavarz commentary: "The Forgotten Hostages"]

[Text] The questions put to the president by Western correspondents during his news conference on Monday 23 October mostly focused on the issue of the hostages. Specifically, correspondents from the American ABC network, the British BBC, THE OBSERVER, the ASSOCIATED PRESS and UPI, and THE WASHINGTON POST asked the president about the issue of hostage taking in Lebanon.

There are a few noteworthy points which should be discussed in this context:

1) On the basis of the Western correspondents' questions, one could conclude that all the hostages are from the West and that there are no other hostages from Islamic groups, either Lebanese, Palestinian, or Iranian.

The fact that no mention was made of the abduction of Mr Musavi, then charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and three people accompanying him in 1982 on the Tripoli-Beirut highway by Phalangist forces, or of the abduction of or the indifference toward the Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims who have been held captive in Israeli prisons for years by the occupiers of Jerusalem, is noteworthy. In the words of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani: "Western officials and the mass media only concern themselves with problems that affect Westerners and are not prepared to sympathize with the grief and sorrow of the Third World."

The Western media's neglect of the Muslim Palestinian, Lebanese, and Iranian hostages who are being held captive by the occupiers of Jerusalem and by the Maronites raises the question of whether the Western newspapers and news agencies are justifying the acts of their governments and actually concealing Western domination of the deprived nations of the world.

The West's objective in creating a propaganda commotion around the Western hostages in Lebanon is to overshadow the hundreds of Muslim hostages held captive in the horrific prisons of the occupying regime.

2) The questions implied that it is only the Islamic groups that are involved in hostage taking and that revolutionary Muslims are nothing but terrorist hostage takers.

The United States is constantly talking about a few American hostages at a time when it has taken the entire Arab world hostage with Israel's help. In the words of the president: "The Western mass media sees only the small groups when it should be condemning Israel which is abducting and the United States which is endorsing the acts of the Maronites instead of picking on the small groups whose acts are the result of oppression."

Are the hundreds of people who have been taken hostage by the regime occupying Jerusalem, including Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, not worth mentioning before a few American hostages?

3) Iran is portrayed as being responsible for the hostage taking. By condemning the Lebanese Hizballah, the Western mass media is trying to point to Iran's role in the hostage taking because of the Islamic Republic's ideological influence over Hizballah. But as the Lebanese Hizballah has repeatedly stated, Iran played no role in the hostage taking in Lebanon and it was this small and self-directed Islamic group in Lebanon which was involved in the hostage taking issue.

4) It seems that the president's proposal for raising the issue of the Western hostages in tandem with the issue of the Muslim Palestinian, Lebanese, and Iranian hostages who are being held captive by the Maronites, as well as of the numerous hostages who are being held captive by the Israeli regime, can be a good remedy. Insistence on only the Western hostages is tantamount to paying attention to only the tip of an iceberg.

Undoubtedly, hostage taking cannot be considered to be a justifiable or commendable act. The abduction of human beings must be condemned. However, there is an important difference between those who use hostage taking as a tool to suppress nations and to dominate these nations' destinies and those who take hostages because they are oppressed and because this is the only way they can make their oppressed voice heard.

Maldives

Victory Day Observed; Indian Assistance Lauded

BK0311091589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Maldives today commemorated the victorious action on this day against attempted coup of mercenaries. Addressing the victory celebrations at the Islami Park, the Maldives president, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, said the people had to suffer the worst as their freedom and integrity were threatened because of the armed invasion. He said some countries agreed to help, but India responded positively by sending its troops to thwart the coup attempt. Mr Gayoom thanked the Indian Government for the assistance provided in their hour of crisis. All India Radio correspondent reports that Mr Gayoom highly praised the Indian troops for their valor and the way they completed the job with devotion and dedication.

Remaining Indian Troops Leave

BK0311130589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] The Maldivians gave a touching farewell to the remaining 152 Indian troops when they left the island nation for home today. Maldives commemorates the day as Victory Day. It may be recalled that a year ago 600 mercenaries attempted a coup to overthrow the Gayoom government. India sent the troops on the request of President Gayoom to thwart the coup attempt. Mr Gayoom thanked the Indian Government for the assistance provided in their hour of crisis.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Bhutto Holds News Conference

BK0211114389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1515 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Report on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's news conference in Islamabad on 1 November; portions recorded, monitored in progress]

[Text] ...at the outset, the journalists present at the news conference congratulated the prime minister on her success [in defeating the opposition sponsored no-confidence motion].

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] What would you like to say to the nation on this occasion? What is your message to the nation? Please say something about a solution to the national problems.

[Bhutto] First of all, I would like to say that peace and order should be maintained. This move has shaken the entire nation, but with the grace of God, the entire no-confidence vote was conducted smoothly and no incident came into light which might have caused further damage. [end recording]

Answering a question about the possibility of forming a coalition government at the federal level, the prime minister said:

[Begin recording] [Bhutto] Since the formation of our government, we have been saying that our doors are open. We will welcome those who want to see stability [preceding word in English] inside Pakistan and want to help us. I went to the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad—Islamic Democratic Alliance] leader's home [following last year's general elections], even though I was the prime minister. I wanted to show magnanimity. And, my ministers at their meetings with me also repeatedly said that confrontation and fighting will not bring peace. When there is so much poverty in our country, when there are so many problems in our country, the government should be allowed to function and it should be given a chance to fulfill the people's mandate. You may recall that when they staged a rally in the North-West Frontier Province, they admitted that yes, the prime minister has offered [cooperation], but we have rejected.

Now, I believe that every one of those who are not among the extremist elements [preceding two words in English] should think about what they can do for stability [preceding word in English] and the stability [preceding word in English] of democratic institutions. It is not appropriate to indulge [in rhetoric] that we will continue the confrontation and will try to work against this person or that person. After all, what do they want? Do they want fresh elections [preceding two words in English]? Earlier, they thought that if they were successful [in getting the no-confidence motion passed], they would call for fresh elections [preceding two words in English]. Now, they will try to make our majority unworkable [preceding word in English] so that we are forced to hold fresh elections [preceding two words in English].

But at this time, I do not think that fresh elections [preceding two words in English] are in the interest of Pakistan or Pakistani democratic institutions, and hence, those who think along with us that fresh elections [preceding two words in English] are not appropriate at this time, then it is their duty to form a working majority with us in order to continue democratic institutions.

Now, I will tell you why we do not believe in fresh elections [preceding two words in English] at this time. Not even a year has passed [since the last elections], and all elections provoke sentiments, fervor, and frenzy. Since not even a year has passed, we should consider whether this fervor and frenzy will benefit or hurt us more. Second, we should ponder whether the fresh elections [preceding two words in English] would yield any alternative results. I think no. Even [after fresh elections, the Pakistan People's Party] would be the single largest party, with a simple majority [in the National Assembly]. The whole thing would again depend on a few votes and if there was a democratic deadlock [preceding two words in English] once again, then what is the future of democracy? [preceding seven words in English]

Presently we enjoy a simple majority. We would also enjoy a simple majority after fresh elections [preceding two words in English]. But if a simple majority means that a game [preceding word in English] is played by a few members, it would mean a deadlock [preceding word in English]. And if we are faced with a situation of twice deadlock, then what is the future of democratic institutions? [preceding ten words in English]. That is why I appeal to those—whether they are in the opposition or the government—who believe that fresh elections [preceding two words in English] would not bring any results for the time being and who believe that democratic institutions and representation promote unity in the country, that it is good if we can work together to create an atmosphere in which democracy, independence, and the Constitution are strengthened so that our people can progress.

[Correspondent] Madam Prime Minister, we have once again placed our confidence in you. How will you begin the new journey? Will you make changes in your government to overcome shortcomings?

[Bhutto] This will definitely happen. Earlier, I stated that [the cabinet] would be reshuffled [preceding word in English]. Now, after taking stock of the situation, the process will begin.

[Correspondent] Will the reshuffle take place immediately?

[Bhutto] It will take place, God willing, after a review of the situation. [end recording]

Answering a foreign correspondent's question on what her strategy at the government and party level will be in light of the present situation, the prime minister said:

[Begin recording] [Bhutto, in English] It is important for us to recognize the difficult situation Pakistan is in, and it is important for the government to try and close as many (?fronts) that there are against us. It is also important for the government to have some kind of understanding or code of conduct with the other political parties. I also feel that it is important for our ministerial colleagues to spend a larger time with the members of the National Assembly and to listen to their grievances. It is important to expand the base of the governing party and it is important to try and defuse confrontation wherever it exists. [end recording]

Answering a question about relations between the federation and the provinces and a possible no-confidence motion against the Punjab government, Ms Benazir Bhutto said:

[Begin Bhutto recording] We have never sponsored any such [no-confidence] move on behalf of the federation. We are also not in favor of sponsoring such a move on behalf of the federation. This is a provincial matter, and

it should be a decision of the provincial [assembly] members. As far as we are concerned, we think that the more stability there is, the better it is. We also hope that the provincial government will not register false cases against the opposition, and that the provincial government will not announce policies that provoke the opposition, like talking of a separate bank, separate television and radio stations, separate [word indistinct]. When federal officials are arrested, it is evident that every patriot considers it his duty to raise his voice against this. We hope that the provincial government will not take any measures that will hurt the feelings of patriots. [end recording]

Answering another question by a foreign correspondent about the possibility of another no-confidence motion in the future, she said:

[Begin recording] [Bhutto, in English] I am confident of the majority that we have. I told the members of the press before this no-confidence move was taken to a vote that we had a majority. We still have a majority and I believe that those who supported the government are men and women of integrity, and they will withstand all pressures to ensure that the democratic institutions are strengthened. Not only that, but I also want to tell you that there were many members sitting on the other side who wanted to abstain and who had promised us that they would abstain. But it is difficult when you are in the House and being pressured to make a scene. And none of us wanted a scene made.

But, I think it is time for reflection. Reflection by the government, and reflection by the sober, moderate elements within the opposition as to the future and what they want for the future, and whether these negative and destructive tactics are really harmful to our government, or are they harmful to constitutional government and democracy? [end recording]

When a correspondent asked about her recent meeting with the president, the prime minister said:

[Begin recording] [Bhutto, in English] The president and I have been in communication with each other prior to this meeting too, and given the tension that prevails—there had been some disturbing reports about what could happen outside parliament, and, perhaps, even inside Parliament, and I recall the incident of the East Pakistan assembly—I felt that I must meet the president, and the president and I met. We had a very good discussion, very frank discussion, a long discussion on the prevailing situation and different points of tension and how, perhaps, to devise ways to reduce them. [end recording]

In reply to a question, the prime minister said that despite having a simple majority in the National Assembly, her government is fully capable of carrying out national affairs in a pleasant manner. The prime minister made it clear:

[Begin Bhutto recording] And, governments can run with a majority of only one vote. While you speak, ours is not the government of a single vote. If we get even one vote, we have the right to govern. And this is not a weak government. Therefore, we have granted full freedom to the press. Despite that freedom, no one was able to shake us. Every politician is independent. I am not for unpopular programs. [preceding sentence in English] Besides that, public opinion [preceding two words in English] is with us. It means that ours is a strong government.

I was asking what they want. Do they want a new election [preceding word in English]? Whether they say they will reduce the [government] majority or whether they say they will bring forward a confidence move, they do not have the majority. First, they do not have a majority. Second, ask their supporters whether the leader of the opposition [preceding four words in English] has a constituency. Not even a constituency. Another question is, as you [the opposition] are criticizing us [the ruling party] on foreign policy, please let us know who you recognize—the Afghan interim government or Dr Najib? There are conflicting views among them.

Being the largest party, if we are not able to work, nobody will be able to work. I was telling you that the opposition had the idea of holding elections. Now, their effort is to reduce my majority and somehow conduct a new election [preceding word in English]. But, even if the elections were held, what would be their outcome? The outcome would be that the People's Party would secure more seats and come out with a simple majority. But, even if we come out with a simple majority—we have a simple majority now—what does it mean? Again, a handful of people can take the entire parliament hostage [preceding word in English]. And, if elections are held twice in a year, and both times a handful of people are able to take the entire Parliament hostage [preceding word in English], then what is the future of democracy?

That is why, for those who believe in democracy and those who say—whatever our ideological differences—that democracy is essential for the solidarity and welfare of the country, for the dignity, honor, and welfare of the people, it is the responsibility of all of us to put aside all of our personal or any kind of differences and agree to a workable majority [preceding two words in English]. [end recording]

Answering a question on the internal situation in Sind, the prime minister said.

[Begin recording] [Bhutto, in English] I think the province has suffered tremendously, and we have been doing our best to improve the situation there—particularly in the interior of Sind where law and order is very bad. Ever since the new government has come in, crime has gone down by 60 percent. Unfortunately, we do not have too many public representatives in Karachi and Hyderabad, and we have been unable to bring about similar results in these two major cities. But it remains and will be our endeavor to try and improve the situation there. And given time we will succeed. We have already ucceeded to the extent that there have been no massacres like [those

in] Orangi or Hyderabad, or Malir, as there were in the time of the IJI or the Junejo or the interim governments of the past. But it is still a serious cause of concern, and we must make sure that everyone is equal before the law, and we must not allow political pressures to release people.

I want to tell you that in the past, the entire administration was neglected, and in the cities population grew by leaps and bounds but administration did not grow. We have taken certain steps of making [words indistinct] so the local situation is known, and secondly, we set up peace committees. And the governor has discussed with me that we will not take political people [in peace committees] because this will only heighten tension. We will take nonpolitical people in the peace committees. And the way the peace committees have taken off, they are doing a very good job. And as the system of peace committees expands, as the administrative back up expands, and we hope we get the cooperation of the public representatives there, then I think, like the interior [of Sind], the situation will improve in the cities.

[Correspondents] Thank you very much.

[Bhutto] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Commentary Hails Outcome of No-Confidence Motion

BK0211135889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Syed Nazir Bukhari commentary]

[Text] In the National Assembly today, the no-confidence motion against the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, was defeated and the prime minister later thanked the members for reposing their confidence in her once more during a short period of 10 months. The no-confidence motion could only get the support of 107 members, while 119 votes were required for the motion to succeed. Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto thanked the Parliament for the gracious act, while the speaker of the National Assembly expressed the hope that the result would be accepted by both sides in a democratic spirit.

In Pakistan's parliamentary history, this no-confidence motion was the first of its kind against the prime minister. Since the notice of the motion was given, conflicting views were being expressed on the success or the otherwise of the no-confidence move. The impression being created through the press was that it would be a neck-to-neck fight. However, speculations proved false, and the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government succeeded in retaining power by a comfortable margin. Yet, the movers of the motions also succeeded in making the government realize that their move was a serious effort to put significant political pressure on the party in power. This was evident from the response of the prime minister who said that no-confidence resolution was no joke as it shakes the entire nation and the working of the country's machinery. It also gives rise to fears about the democratic institutions and puts strains on the integrity and unity of the country. The prime minister also reiterated that she was conscious of the responsibilities and obligations, and it would be the foremost duty of her democratic government to live up to the expectations and aspirations of the people of Pakistan.

For those who were present in Parliament to see proceedings, it was not difficult to observe that the prime minister accepted the whole exercise as well as its results in a democratic spirit. She appealed to the opposition to join hands with her in strengthening the democratic forces, democratic institutions, and the dignity of the Parliament. She extended the hand of friendship and cooperation to the opposition.

Another noteworthy phenomenon is that the no-confidence proceedings were conducted in the smoothest possible manner, and this received appreciation not only from the speaker, but also from the galleries. Again as the results were announced, the speeches of the leader of the opposition and the prime minister were applauded by the whole House. This indicated that the tense atmosphere that the no-confidence motion was able to create in the country had now given way to pleasant feelings. The conciliatory tone of the prime minister was also fully evident in the news conference which she addressed immediately afterwards. One could easily gather that the prime minister wanted to see the democracy to flourish and for this her message was that the country's opposition parties should give her genuine cooperation.

Today's no-confidence motion, though new to the fragile democracy in Pakistan, is a good exercise for the successful running of democracy in this country. It proved that the methods given in the Constitution for changing governments are effective and practicable. It also proved that if a strategy of no-confidence move was followed in a democratic spirit, it could have a desired result. The only reservations that were expressed by the government, whether proper timing should not be lost sight of. [sentence as heard] The purpose should not be to destabilize the government. It should be to make the party in power realize that, perhaps, its priorities and strategies need a change. However, the foremost consideration should be that a democratic set up is not harmed in any way as in Pakistan the sapling of democracy needs very careful fostering.

Troops Open Fire on Curfew Violators; 1 Killed

BK0211154189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1522 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Karachi, Nov 2 (AFP)—Pakistani troops opened fire on curfew violators Thursday, leaving one dead in central Karachi and bringing the two-day death toll from related violence to five, hospital sources said.

The sources said that troops patrolling areas of downtown Karachi shot dead a person breaking a curfew that had been clamped on the city Wednesday. The measure was taken when opposition activists set a bus on fire and

pelted cars with stones after a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was defeated in the National Assembly.

Four people were killed by gunmen Wednesday in two different districts, police said, and army patrols were called in to stop the intermittent gunfire.

The opposition Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) accused supporters of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of terrorising people in the mainly Muhajir areas of Liaquatabad and Nazimabad Districts. MQM leaders accused the PPP of resorting to "a policy of revenge" after MQM joined the opposition's effort to unseat Ms. Bhutto.

And MQM leader Altaf Hussain expressed full support for the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) following the failure of the no-confidence motion. MQM sources said Mr. Hussain telephoned Nawaz Sharif, Punjab chief minister and leader of the IJI, and assured him of continued MQM support.

Mr. Hussain charged that the government had used official pressure to prevent 26 members of the National Assembly from voting with the opposition in the no-confidence motion, which failed by 12 votes.

PRC's Li Peng Plans Official Visit for 14 Nov

BK0211152589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Chinese Premier Mr Li Peng will pay a 4-day official visit to Pakistan from the 14th of this month. The Chinese premier will have two rounds of talks with Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto during his stay in Pakistan. Mr Li Peng will also call on the president and will attend a banquet hosted by Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan. He will also attend a reception hosted by Ms Benazir Bhutto.

Mr Li Peng will visit the Chinese-aided heavy (?mill) factory and heavy mechanical complex at Taxilla. The Chinese premier will plant a sapling at (Sakarpadian) in Islamabad and will also go to Karachi. It is expected that the two countries will sign a few agreements during the Chinese premier's visit.

UN Resolution on Afghanistan Welcomed

BK0311091489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Pakistan has welcomed the unanimous adoption of the resolution on Afghanistan at the 44th session of the UN General Assembly and expressed the hope that this will help in finding an expeditious political solution to the Afghanistan issue and added that this sort of solution will be possible only when the power is handed over to a broad-based government, which is acceptable to the Afghan people, instead of the unrepresentative Kabul regime.

A foreign office spokesman said in Islamabad that Pakistan's reentry into the Commonwealth has provided it with one more effective organization to handle vital international issues. He said Pakistan's readmission into the Commonwealth is an important political achievement. Pakistan will be able to apprise the Commonwealth countries of the issues confronting the Islamic world in a better way. Pakistan's technical and other professional experts will be able to go to the Commonwealth countries now and the manpower from member countries will be able to acquire training in Pakistan and benefit from the services of experts.

Delegate Supports UN Peacekeeping Operations

BK0311112389 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Pakistan has supported United Nation's ongoing peacekeeping operations and emphasized that no change in their mandate should take place except through a Security Council decision. The support was extended by the Pakistan delegate, Mr Hussain Shah Rushdie, in the General Assembly's special political committee debate on peacekeeping operations.

He said his government respected mandate of the United Nation's military observers group in India and Pakistan, which monitors the line of control in Kashmir and the Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Underscoring the primary role of the Security Council in maintaining peace and security, the Pakistan delegate said no change in the mandate, character, or duration of peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council should be made except through a specific decision.